

Mayor condemns Rushdie threat

PARIS (AP) — UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor Monday condemned attacks against British author Salman Rushdie and said the right of free expression must be respected. "It is every person's duty to respect other people's freedom of expression. Whatever the offence may be, no incitement to violence from whatever source is admissible," said Mayor in a statement issued by the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The statement followed an announcement that the 12 European Community countries would recall their ambassadors to Tehran for consultations to protest a call by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for the murder of the author of "The Satanic Verses" (see page 8). British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said that Britain would close down its mission in Tehran and implied that Iranian envoys in London would be asked to go home because of the Iranian order to kill Rushdie. Howe, attending an EEC meeting in Brussels, said Britain would close down its diplomatic mission in Tehran altogether because of the death threat against Rushdie.

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King leaves for Tokyo

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday left Amman for Tokyo to take part in the funeral of the late Japanese Emperor Hirohito. The King was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. During his stay in Tokyo, the King will meet with a number of world leaders.

Upon departure, the King was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, senior civilian and military officials, and the Japanese ambassador in Amman.

Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent prior to King's departure.



HM King Hussein

ACC founding continues to draw popular support

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has received further expressions of support and backing for the newly created Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which was launched in Baghdad last Thursday grouping Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Monday that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who visited Jordan Sunday, voiced his country's backing for the new regional economic alliance.

The King Monday received cables of congratulations for the creation of the ACC from Sheikh Abdullah Al Sabah, a prominent Kuwaiti leader, praising the unionist step as conforming to the principles laid down by the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt.

Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Al Asbahi, member of the Consultative Council of North Yemen, sent a cable to the King expressing delight over "this important step, which embodies the concept of integration and solidarity among Arab states."



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi (right) Monday receives documents of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ratified by Iraq from Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein (Petra photo)

The King received cables of congratulations from Colonel Na'im Al Khatib, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan, and Lt.-General Ibril Shalash, commander of the Al Karamah Palestinian forces, expressing their support for the proclamation of the ACC.

"The Palestinian people look to this achievement as a step towards greater Arab unity which would extend further support for the Palestinian people's cause," the cables said.

Council of Arab Economic Union (CAEU) Secretary General

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Shevardnadze wins Egyptian support for Soviet initiative

CAIRO (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met Egyptian leaders Monday, winning further Arab backing for Moscow's Middle East peace initiative.

"The views of the Soviet and Egyptian leadership were identical," Shevardnadze said after three hours of talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

Shevardnadze, who was scheduled to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Wednesday at the Soviet embassy in Cairo, said he would also hold talks with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo.

Earlier reports indicated the meeting with Arafat would be in Baghdad.

The major topic of Shevardnadze's talks is a three-stage Soviet blueprint for convening an international conference on Arab-Israeli peace. Shevardnadze disclosed it Saturday in Syria, the first stop in his five-

state Middle East tour.

Monday, Shevardnadze met privately for two hours with Mubarak at the presidential office in Heliopolis, a northeastern Cairo suburb. An interpreter was present. They lunched together afterwards.

Shevardnadze told reporters he delivered a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and an invitation to Mubarak for "an official and friendly visit" to the Soviet Union.

"The message contained some views of the Soviet leadership on international contemporary issues, including some important presentations regarding a Middle East settlement," Shevardnadze said in Russian through an interpreter.

He did not refer to the plan he unveiled in Damascus.

"We had important and in-depth talks... and on both regional and international problems, there is no disagreement between the Soviet and Egyptian posi-

tions," he said.

Shevardnadze disclosed his planned meeting with his Israeli counterpart while in Syria the first leg of his Middle East tour.

"Only through dialogue and convincing can one overcome the stubborn Israeli stand," Shevardnadze said at a news conference early Sunday before leaving Damascus for Jordan. "I hope I can convince him (Arens)."

Shevardnadze said in Jordan that the PLO and Arabs had made great efforts towards an international conference.

"The rest now awaits the Israeli position. We will discover it through our meetings with the Israeli foreign minister," he said.

Shevardnadze left Amman for Egypt Sunday night after a 7½-hour stay. He also was scheduled to visit Iran and Iraq.

Shevardnadze was the first Soviet foreign minister ever to visit Jordan.

After talks in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein Sunday,

Shevardnadze said nine months should be enough time for preparatory work to launch an international peace conference next year.

"Jordan, Syria and the Soviet Union have agreed there should be a time limit for preparatory work. Let's say we have to complete this in nine months," he told reporters at Marka airport.

"There should be cooperation among U.N. Security Council members in addition to the efforts of (U.N. Secretary General) Javier Perez de Cuellar, the European Community and others directly involved in the problem," he said.

"We believe there are good bases for a settlement and we agreed with the Jordanian leadership that we should seize these opportunities," he added.

"There are signs that the peace conference would convene next year," he said. "Of course many

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Hosni Mubarak

Mubarak meets Arens

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was meeting Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Monday night in the first high-level Israeli-Egyptian meeting after talks between Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid in Paris last month.

During his visit to Cairo, Arens is also scheduled to hold talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who arrived here late Sunday and met with Mubarak Monday.

Egyptian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials meanwhile dismissed speculations that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Arens could establish indirect contacts during their stay in the Egyptian capital.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he hoped the talks in Cairo foretell a breakthrough in the stagnated Israeli-Egyptian relations and a normalisation of Israeli-Soviet ties.

"Maybe we're entering a more intensive stage in the Middle East peace process," Shamir said. "I'm not convinced in that but I would like to hope that the meeting with President Mubarak... would renew something in relations between us and Egypt, and would express some special Egyptian activity regarding the peace process."

"What we had before was not normal. We did not have personal contacts between Egyptian and Israeli leaders. Maybe this meeting foretells some breakthrough in this anomaly," he said on Israel television's Arabic-language programme.

As to Arens' scheduled meeting with Shevardnadze, Shamir said it was "impossible to think this would be a routine conversation... Shevardnadze is in the Middle East on a special diplomatic trip."

"I think that with every meeting we are coming closer to a normalisation" of the Israeli-Soviet relations, broken by Moscow after the 1967 war, Shamir added.

Israeli officials have said Moscow must restore ties before it can play an active role in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Soviet officials have argued that Israel must accept participation in a proposed international Middle East peace conference before ties could be resumed. Shamir has rejected such a condition.

Polisario says new round of talks set

STOCKHOLM (R) — Polisario guerrillas will hold a new round of peace talks with Morocco's King Hassan next week, Polisario Secretary-General Mohammed Abdul Aziz said Monday.

"I received information yesterday that a second meeting will be held next week," said Abdul Aziz, who is on a three-day visit to Sweden.

Abdul Aziz said the exact date of the meeting had not yet been decided but it would take place in Morocco at a venue of the king's choosing.

Polisario leaders held a first round of direct talks with King Hassan over the disputed western Sahara in early January.

In a statement in Rabat Saturday, the organisation threatened to break a ceasefire begun in February unless King Hassan agreed to meet its representatives again.

"We hope that the outcome of this next meeting with the king will be able to turn our unilateral ceasefire into a political agreement," Abdul Aziz said.

The Polisario, which has been fighting for 13 years to end Moroccan rule over the former Spanish colony, declared a unilateral ceasefire earlier this month saying it wished to smooth the way for the formation of a Maghreb union.

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania proclaimed the union in Marrakesh earlier this month.

Abdul Aziz said the Polisario would probably be represented at the peace talks by the same three-man team that attended the opening round in Marrakesh last month.

Israelis destroy 4 homes amid continuing strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians staged a general strike for a second straight day Monday in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, and troops bulldozed or sealed four houses of West Bank Palestinians accused of throwing firebombs at Israeli troops.

The general strike was called by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising for a period of three days. It was the longest strike since the December 1987 start of the uprising.

In a counter move, the army declared Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, a closed military area, and erected roadblocks at the four entrances to stop motorists from entering the city.

Inside Nablus, troops stopped dozens of Palestinian-owned cars, confiscated the drivers' identity cards and ordered them to remove Palestinian flags and wall graffiti, an Arab reporter said. Palestinians are subject to immediate arrest if they don't carry their Israeli-issued identity cards.

In the occupied Gaza Strip,

meanwhile, troops shot and wounded two Palestinians during clashes in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, doctors said.

In the northern West Bank city of Jenin, troops bulldozed the house of a resident accused of throwing three firebombs at an Israeli army vehicle, an army official said. The official did not know if anyone was injured in the attack.

The army also sealed three homes of suspected firebomb throwers, one in the West Bank village of Hawwara and two in the village of Dahiat Al Barrad near Jerusalem, the official said.

Israel has come under domestic and international criticism for blowing up homes, part of its attempts to control the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Sources said army and police were focusing their search for a missing soldier — feared to have been kidnapped by Arab nationalists Thursday — in the occupied Gaza Strip.

They said the army had banned Palestinians in the coastal strip,

including fishermen, from going to sea and troops were searching vehicles at roadblocks.

The soldier went missing on his way home to Ashdod from his army base.

There was little activity in Gaza as residents observed the second day of the three-day protest strike. Palestinians throughout the occupied territories shut their shops and halted transport.

On Sunday 11 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with troops.

Among those reported wounded was a 14-year-old boy who was shot in the stomach and a 12-year-old boy who was shot in the leg, both in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said.

In West Bank, troops raided the Balata refugee camp and shot a 35-year-old woman in the hand, reports said.

In the village of Tubas, also in the West Bank, a 12-year-old boy was burned on the arms and legs when an unidentified object exploded behind his house.

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Aoun, Geagea hold talks

BEIRUT (R) — The leaders of Lebanon's warring Christian factions held a surprise meeting Monday in an attempt to resolve a conflict that killed at least 70 people last week.

Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun met Lebanese Forces (LF) leader Samir Geagea for two hours at the presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, official sources quoted by Reuters said.

Geagea later told reporters: "It was a positive meeting during which all issues were discussed. We can say all what happened (the fighting) is over for good."

Aoun, who has vowed to curb the LF's quasi-governmental activities, did not comment on the talks, his first with Geagea since street battles erupted last

Tuesday.

On Sunday, Geagea vowed to put his 12,000-strong force at Aoun's disposal, but said he would only withdraw his militia from east Beirut when Syria pulled out its troops from the western sector of the capital.

The army and the militia, however, were seen Sunday reinforcing their positions, with LF militiamen digging trenches and erecting checkpoints.

Aoun, whose mainly-Christian units remain on full alert behind tanks and artillery, says he is set on building a strong central authority in war-ravaged Lebanon.

He demands that LF militiamen go to barracks under army control, stop levying taxes, and quit two illegal ports.

He also wants the LF to close

down its national development council which sponsors economic and social projects.

Aoun and Geagea share control of the Christian enclave comprising east Beirut and mountains to the north and east.

Geagea has said he was ready to offer "concessions" to avoid fresh fighting and pulled his men back to their barracks but has not met Aoun's other demands.

Political analysts said Geagea was moderating his usually tough tone to gain the support of Christian public opinion, divided between the army and the militia.

Despite their remaining differences, radio stations said their Monday meeting would pave the way for a final inter-Christian reconciliation.

Drinking water in Amman — solutions in blending

This is the first of a two-part article. The second part will appear in Wednesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — For the past six months, Amman residents have been drinking water from the King Abdullah Canal, better known as the East Ghor Canal (EGC). Water authorities and University of Jordan and Royal Scientific Society (RSS) experts explain why:

In May 1986, the Amman area was facing a shortage of water. A decision was taken in December 1986 to use the water in the EGC for drinking purposes. Six months later, the water in the EGC was mixed with water coming from the King Talal Dam (KTD), water that was highly contaminated with treated waste water from Khirbet Al Samra, raw sewage water and industrial waste wa-

ter. Experts' reports strictly prohibited KTD water to be used for human consumption.

The KTD water was mixed with water coming from the Yarmouk River, pumped through the Deir Alla/Amman pipelines to the Zai water treatment plant and then distributed in Amman.

Once the cause for the bad taste and odour was discovered, the Deir Alla/Amman pipeline was closed in June 1987. Although there are ways to treat the water coming from the KTD, "it is very costly," said the director of the water research and study centre at the University of Jordan, Dr. Elias Salemech.

During the 14 months the Deir Alla/Amman pipeline was closed, the Amman area received its water from Azraq,

Zarqa, Swaqa and Castals wells. However, in Azraq, salt water began to encroach on the fresh water, said Salemech.

In the summer of 1988 it was decided that EGC water be used, mixing with other sources. In August 1988, supply of the surface water of the EGC to Amman was resumed.

It is highly unlikely that the KTD water will ever be mixed with the EGC water, according to head of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani.

"We have closed all the outlets coming from the KTD, — pipelines or canals — into the EGC," said Bani Hani.

He added that reports showed that KTD water "cannot be used or mixed with water coming from the north of the Jordan Valley for consumption in the Amman area or any other area," especially since the Zai water treatment plant is

only designed to treat water which has a quality similar to Yarmouk water.

Other measures have been taken by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) to maintain the quality of water from the EGC canal. The director of the water control department of the WAJ, Dr. Raja Gedeon, said all side canals were monitored four times a day for chemical, physical and biological waste.

"We assess the bio-mass on a frequent basis and all necessary measures are taken to remove the algae in order to improve the efficiency of the treatment plant," said Gedeon.

Inhabitants around the waterways are prohibited to bathe or to wash their clothes in the water, and the WAJ has fenced the waterways in crowded areas.

According to Gedeon, the water reaching Amman "is of

excellent quality, in compliance with international standards, without taste or odour problems and bacteria."

He said that there had been no complaints from Amman residents, "even though all their drinking water has come from the EGC for the past six months."

Chlorination effects

However, other water experts and chemists assert that although the water coming from the Zai plant is "bacteria-free," trihalomethanes (THM) — (carcinogenic material) is still present in the water due to chlorination treatment. In addition to suggesting alternatives to chlorination, they believe that unless further tests are conducted, Jordanians will never know just how contaminated is the water.

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LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Armenian quake damage estimated at \$16b

MOSCOW (AP) — The earthquake that struck the Armenian republic last December caused 10 billion rubles (\$16.2 billion) worth of damage and destroyed 58 villages and towns, the TASS news agency said Monday. The earthquake, which struck Dec. 7, killed 25,000 people and injured 19,000, the Armenian committee on statistics said in a report published by the news agency. "More than 20 towns and 342 villages were affected and 58 of them were completely destroyed," TASS said. "Twenty-five thousand bodies and 15,000 survivors were pulled from under the rubble. A total of 19,000 people were injured," TASS said. "Eleven per cent of Armenia's housing stock was lost," the report said. "A total of 130 factories had to stop work, and 299 government-owned and cooperative farms were damaged."

Kampuchea talks seem broken down

JAKARTA (R) — Talks aimed at bringing peace to Kampuchea, scene of South-East Asia's last major armed conflict, appear to have broken down, delegates said Monday. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told reporters he thought his "99 per cent" prediction for successful talks, made on arrival for the discussions hosted by Indonesia, was now too optimistic. From Peking, exiled resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk sent messages telling his delegates here that Indonesia should just issue a resume of the talks if Hanoi and Phnom Penh did not compromise with the resistance.

S. Yemen, Morocco establish diplomatic ties

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Democratic Republic of South Yemen has opened diplomatic relations with Morocco, the Gulf News Agency reported Monday from Aden. The report said ties would operate at ambassadorial level.

Air Afrique hijack trial opens

LAUSANNE (R) — A Lebanese who hijacked an Air Afrique airliner and killed a French passenger told a court Monday he had been sent on a mission to gain the release of pro-Iranian guerrillas. "The operation was aimed at securing freedom for a number of people, not at killing innocent passengers," Hussein Ali Hariri told Switzerland's federal court as his trial opened on seven charges including murder and air piracy. The 23-year-old Lebanese, who commanded an Air Afrique DC-10 carrying 148 passengers and 15 crew July 24, 1987, faces a possibly life prison term.

IRA bombs army barracks in England

SHREWSBURY, England (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) blew up two living quarters at a British army camp here early Monday and 60 British paratroopers escaped just in time. A Defence Ministry spokesman said three bomb blasts ripped through the central England camp minutes after a sentry fired on two men fleeing the compound. He said 60 soldiers from the crack Parachute Regiment were alerted and evacuated just before blasts wrecked the buildings. Only one man was slightly hurt, by flying glass. The (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement to a Dublin news agency and pledged further attacks.

Sudanese rebels reject overtures

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Sudanese rebels rejected Monday Khartoum's latest overtures for ending the six-year civil war in southern Sudan. A spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said the SPLA was committed instead to a peace pact which it signed last November with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which was then a coalition partner in government. The government has not disclosed details of its latest peace proposals. The DUP quit the coalition in December in protest at the refusal of the government to ratify the peace agreement.



Sahabzada Yaqub Khan

Pakistan denies massing troops

ISLAMABAD (R) — Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan Monday denied official Afghan charges that Pakistan was preparing to attack Afghanistan.

He told parliament the charges last week were not true and only illustrated the "bribe and frustration" of the Afghan authorities.

The official Afghan news agency Bakhtar reported Saturday that an armed Pakistani tribal unit was preparing to invade the Khosht area in east Afghanistan.

Islamabad had earlier denied Kabul's charges that thousands of Pakistani troops had entered eastern Afghanistan to help the rebels lay siege to the Nangarhar province capital of Jalalabad.

Yaqub Khan, quoted by the official APP news agency, said Kabul's frustration was evident from the imposition of a state of emergency and drastic cabinet changes since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan last Wednesday.

Speaking in the National Assembly (lower house), he said Pakistan wanted a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan from President Najibullah's government to one representing all segments of society.

Government sources in Kabul said Monday Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq had resigned and a 20-man supreme military council had taken over (see page 2).



Two Afghan rebels guarding a Mujahedeen camp in the Khyber Pass on the border with Pakistan.

Military panel takes over Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq resigned as a 20-man supreme military council took over in Afghanistan, government sources said Monday.

Sharq, 63, was the most senior member of government, not in President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

His name was missing from the list of members of the new council announced officially Sunday night. All but one, Vice-President Abdul Rahim Hatfi, were in the PDPA, mostly from the party's governing politburo.

The changes followed the withdrawal last Wednesday of the last Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Sharq's resignation after nine months in office had been widely expected but the reasons were not immediately clear.

One government source said he had cited poor health. But another said Sharq and Najibullah had agreed that the president should preside over the council of ministers (cabinet) during the state of emergency declared Sunday.

The prime minister's office would only say that Sharq was at home. A Foreign Ministry spokesman would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Rebel bickering

In Islamabad, battles between

fundamentalists and moderates held up progress towards agreement on an interim government for Afghanistan at a rebel Mujahedeen council Monday.

Two moderate parties were refusing to put forward any names for the expected 30-member interim government the Mujahedeen and their Western backers hope will take power from the still defiant Najibullah government in Kabul.

Moderate delegates said the two parties were refusing to nominate candidates because they believed fundamentalists were trying to force through a government dominated by their nominees.

Officials of four fundamentalist parties complained the moderates were deliberately holding up a vote on the interim government by a consultative council, or Shura, because they did not have enough votes to install their own candidates as prime minister.

The Shura, which opened Feb. 10 and was expected to last only three days, has been dogged from the outset by disputes and walk-outs.

The image of disunity they are presenting has dismayed even the

most optimistic Western diplomats. "This is very, very depressing," said one.

"I doubt that the energy we are seeing from President Najibullah is entirely unassociated with the mess at the Shura," he added.

The seven Mujahedeen parties based in Pakistan — four fundamentalist and three moderate — have agreed to put an interim government to the Shura for approval. The government is headed by Ahmad Shah, the deputy leader of a fundamentalist party.

So far he has only 16 names and moderates, including those refusing to nominate candidates, are insisting he put the whole cabinet to the Shura for a vote.

The fundamentalists were trying to persuade the Shura to approve the names assembled so far and allow a 10-man commission to fill the rest of the portfolios, delegates said.

"We are having nothing to do with that. The Shura was called to be consulted on and approve an interim government. That's what it must do," one moderate delegate said.

"It's an absolute shambles," he added.

Najibullah appeal

Najibullah has appealed to European Community (EC)

members and other countries and international organisations to help bring a political settlement to his country, TASS said Monday.

"Afghan President Najibullah sent messages to the leaders of China, India, Cuba, Zimbabwe, the EC countries and a number of international organisations asking for assistance with an Afghan settlement," the official Soviet news agency said.

TASS said Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil sent a similar letter to the foreign ministers of the countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Najibullah said in his message that while Soviet troops had left Afghanistan in line with last April's U.N.-mediated accords, Pakistan and the United States were "escalating interference in the domestic affairs of this country."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made a similar appeal for a peaceful settlement both to U.S. President Bush and to several other countries and international organisations. Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said Friday.

Meanwhile, security personnel in Kabul defused 20 kilograms of explosives and several mines in a densely populated part of the city, TASS said.

Kuwaiti emir appeals to Lebanese clerics

KUWAIT (AP) — The emir of Kuwait Monday appealed to Lebanon's top religious leaders "to do their utmost" to help Arab League efforts to end Lebanon's 14-year civil war as they prepared to discuss a new plan to end the strife.

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah made the appeal during an audience with the leaders of the main Muslim and Christian sects of Lebanon, according to informed sources.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who heads the Arab League panel on Lebanon, had earlier consulted with the Lebanese clerics ahead of a four-day roundtable conference under league auspices.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he was sounding out the leaders on blueprints for a proposed settlement to the religious strife, compounded by a constitutional crisis which left the country without a president for the past 148 days.

The Arab League effort was started after the country seemed headed towards formal partition.

The plan envisages an end to foreign forces in Lebanon, the election of a new president and "rebuilding the country's constitutional institutions and government bodies," said the sources. It was drafted by a team of Kuwait Foreign Ministry constitutional and legal experts with whom Sheikh Sabah met at length Saturday.

He did not consider that there were "tangible differences" between Christian and Muslim leaders.

"What we want from the Arab committee is to help Lebanon elect a new president and carry out required reforms," he said in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after his arrival last Sunday.

"The Lebanese should take full advantage of this initiative which we consider a last-ditch effort to reunite Lebanon and restore its dignity, otherwise Lebanon could degenerate into a worse situation," he added.

Aside from Hakim and Shamseddin, those who arrived were Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nas-



Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah

rallah Sfeir, Sunni Grand Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, the supreme religious judge of the Druze community, Sheikh Mursel Nasr, and Greek Orthodox patriarch of Antioch Ignatius Hazim.

Sheikh Sabah heads the league panel that includes the foreign ministers of Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Sudan and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Kibi.

The clerical conference in Kuwait is the second phase of an effort that began last month at Arab League headquarters in Tunis.

Sirhan: Kennedy assassination was to protect Palestinians

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Sirhan Sirhan, in his first television interview, has likened his assassination of Robert Kennedy to a Jew killing Adolf Hitler, but went on to apologise repeatedly for the 1968 slaying.

Sirhan, who comes up for parole in May, called Kennedy his hero in the hour-long interview, which was shown to reporters Sunday and will be broadcast later this week. But he said he felt betrayed by Kennedy's support for Israel in the 1967 war.

When Kennedy gave a speech favouring the provision of U.S. fighter jets to Israel, "that seemed as though it were a betrayal," said Sirhan.

"To have him say that he was going to send 50 Phantom jets to Israel to deliver nothing but death and destruction upon my countrymen — that was betrayal."

Sirhan described himself as not being rational at the time of the assassination. "I was, you know, immature. I was wild."

In killing the senator, then the leading candidate for the Demo-

cratic presidential nomination, Sirhan said. "I was not doing it out of personal malice toward the man, but out of concern for other people."

Sirhan is serving a life term in state prison at Soledad, California. He spoke there Tuesday with David Frost for the syndicated programme "Inside Edition." The interview was to be broadcast in the United States in segments Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sirhan, 44, has given other interviews, but this was the first in which he agreed to be recorded for broadcast, the show's producers said.

Kennedy "was my hero. He was my protector and the defender of the downtrodden and the disadvantaged," Sirhan told Frost. "I can't say anything except that I am totally sorry and feel nothing but remorse for having caused that tragic death."

In carrying out the killing, "my only connection with Robert Kennedy was his sole support of Israel and his deliberate attempt

to send those 50 bombers to Israel to obviously do harm to the Palestinians," Sirhan said.

Although he repeatedly expressed remorse for the killing, Sirhan also argued that Kennedy exercised a "double standard" by favouring both peace in Vietnam and the sale of arms to Israel.

Sirhan said that murder was not an accepted way to settle political differences. But he added: "Imagine if you were a German or a Jew in Hitler's Germany and if you had the opportunity to assassinate Hitler. I'm sure that you would have tried to do that."

Frost replied: "There is no comparison between Hitler and Kennedy."

Sirhan: "Agreed, agreed. But the principle, in sorts, seems to be similar."

Kennedy was shot in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles June 5, 1968, moments after he claimed victory in California's Democratic presidential primary. As he has before, Sirhan insisted that he acted alone.

Rushdie death threat underlines splits in Iran hierarchy

By Ed Blanche

The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death threat against British author Salman Rushdie points to an intensification of the power struggle between so-called pragmatists seeking better relations with the West and revolutionary hardliners.

The furor over Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses," probably stems more from the machinations between political rivals within the Tehran hierarchy than it does from religious outrage.

Diplomats and analysts see the hand of radicals behind Khomeini's bizarre death sentence on Rushdie for allegedly defaming Islam in his novel. The radicals are led by the increasingly powerful interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and Intelligence Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reysahri.

Their aim was to undercut

efforts by Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and his allies to end Iran's self-imposed isolation and to shed its image as a nation of fanatics who sponsor terrorism.

Rushdie's improving relations with Britain, which the hardliners consider second only to the United States as an enemy of the revolution, were severely jolted by Khomeini's death sentence on Rushdie.

London suspended plans to boost its representation in Tehran, only recently restored after a diplomatic dispute. Other Western countries angrily condemned Khomeini for giving fanatics a licence to kill a foreign national.

The timing of Khomeini's angry outburst over the novel last week was odd, although it came after violent riots over the book claimed lives in Pakistan and India.

"The Satanic Verses" was first published in Britain last September. While it triggered

Muslim protests in Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan, it barely raised a ripple of outrage in Iran, which considers itself the beacon of Islamic fundamentalism among the world's estimated 800 million Muslims.

Some analysts see Khomeini's dramatic move to call for Rushdie's head as a bid to reassert himself as the pre-eminent leader in the Islamic World following his humiliating acceptance last July of a United Nations sponsored ceasefire in the war with Iraq.

The 88-year-old revolutionary patriarch admitted publicly that his agreement to end the conflict, at Rafsanjani's urging, was "more deadly than drinking poison."

Khomeini had turned the war into a crusade, one prong in his drive to export his revolution through subversion and covert action.

The ceasefire, after a string of Iranian defeats on the bat-

tlefield, badly undermined the credibility of that campaign and marked a major setback for hardliners like Mohtashemi.

But the explanation that most diplomats and analysts consider most likely is efforts by hardliners to discredit Rafsanjani, whose faction has been gaining the upper hand in the power struggle in Tehran.

Rafsanjani, while criticising Rushdie's book, markedly did not publicly endorse the death sentence, and his ally, President Khatami, sought to defuse the tension by saying that if Rushdie publicly apologised the death sentence might be dropped.

Rafsanjani, named by Khomeini as acting commander-in-chief of Iran's armed forces last June, holds several key political positions and is considered the most powerful figure in Tehran after Khomeini.

Convinced that Iran's isolation cost it dearly in the war

with Iraq and that it cannot afford to be at odds with the rest of the world while it rebuilds after the war, he has stressed that Tehran no longer seeks to export its revolution by militant means.

To the radicals, that is anathema and counter to the principles of the revolution.

The clamour over Rushdie's book has the hallmarks of earlier efforts by Rafsanjani's rivals to end his policies.

In November 1986, they leaked word of his clandestine dealings with the United States to trade hostages held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon for badly needed military hardware.

Rafsanjani wriggled out of that by admitting it in parliament, plunging President Ronald Reagan's administration into a major crisis and claiming it as a political victory over "the great Satan."

Arab sources with some knowledge of later dealings by

Iranian moderates to free Western hostages in Lebanon have said that hardliners, like Mohtashemi, who has long close links with the kidnappers, have blocked efforts by the pragmatists to free the captives and gain friends in the West.

The radicals fear that the eventual outcome of Rafsanjani's policy will be resuming relations with the United States, severed in 1979. For them, that would be the ultimate betrayal.

The political infighting in Tehran was largely masked during the war in the interest of unity. But since the ceasefire it has become more open as the rival factions jockey for position for when Khomeini dies.

Although on paper the succession has been settled by the designation of Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri as Khomeini's heir, Rafsanjani is clearly making a bid to become the real power in the post-Khomeini era.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to release 260 PoWs from today

BAGHDAD (R) — The first of a new batch of 260 Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs) to be freed by Iran will arrive in Baghdad today, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday. "The repatriation of the Iraqi PoWs will be carried out over three days starting from Feb. 21 and an ICRC-chartered aircraft will fly them to Baghdad." ICRC press officer Arnold Luehthol told Reuters. Last month Iraq freed 255 Iranians in a unilateral peace gesture. It still holds some 30,000 Iraqis captured during the eight-year war while Iran holds more than twice that number of Iraqis, according to ICRC estimates.

Kuwait to give bonuses to employees

KUWAIT (R) — All government and military employees in Kuwait, including foreigners, will benefit from KD 38.5 million (\$134 million) in bonuses ordered by the emir, a Kuwaiti official said Monday. He was responding to a Reuters story Sunday which erroneously quoted government spokesman Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid as saying only Kuwaitis would qualify. Rashid told reporters Sunday all government and military employees would get a bonus equal to their monthly social allowance. Retired people and the socially disadvantaged would also benefit. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah ordered the bonuses several days before Kuwait marks the 28th anniversary of its independence from Britain Feb. 25.

Egypt, Israel still differ on Taba hotel price

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Israel Monday remained deadlocked on the value of a luxury hotel in the Israeli-held Sinai beach of Taba, and an Egyptian minister said they might call in property experts as arbitrators. "There is still a gap between the Egyptian and Israeli estimations as far as tourist establishments are concerned," Egyptian Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan told reporters after talks in Cairo Sunday night. He said negotiators would hold more talks Monday and if there was no agreement, "it is possible that a neutral arbitration committee would look into all the proposals." Sultan did not say how wide the gap was between the two sides. Last week, Israel was demanding \$70 million and Cairo offering \$30 million in compensation to Israeli owners of the Taba Sonesta hotel and a tourist village when Israel turns Taba over to Egypt.

Tightened security around El Al planes

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Airport authorities here tightened security measures around El Al passenger planes after a Dutch intelligence service received a tip about a possible attack against them, a police spokesman said Monday. Details about the move at the Dutch capital's international airport were not released because "we don't want to let the enemy what we're doing," police spokesman Rik Hirs said. But a published report said Monday that the airport's passenger terminal was sealed off immediately after midnight Sunday in anticipation of the arrival of an El Al passenger plane originating from Tel Aviv. Amsterdam's De Telegraaf reported in its latest editions that more than 60 police mounted an extensive search for explosives within the terminal, while traffic on the airport's feeder roads was scrutinised for several hours. The only scheduled flight arriving from Tel Aviv Monday morning, El Al's LY005, arrived without incident around 4 a.m. local time (0300 GMT), Hirs said. Hirs said that the tightened security measures "were taken after the domestic security service (BVD) said last week it had received information that there were reasons to take measures around certain El Al passenger planes."

Relatives remember hostages

PONTIAC, Michigan (AP) — Relatives of U.S. and British hostages held in Lebanon attended a candlelight tribute Sunday night to honour the captives and repeat appeals for their release, an organiser said. About 100 people attended the tribute at Calvary Missionary Church, including seven relatives of the hostages. Candles were lit for each of the nine U.S. hostages still believed held in Lebanon while a photo of each captive was displayed, said Ernest May, chairman of the "Second Annual Tribute and Recognition." Religious and patriotic music also was played during the tribute, while the church's pastor sounded a message of hope to the hostages' families. May said, Pontiac Mayor Walter Moore presented each family a city resolution supporting and welcoming them. In attendance Sunday night were John Anderson, brother of AP journalist Terry Anderson; Thomas Cicippio, brother of hostage Joseph Cicippio; Estelle Ronneburg, mother of hostage Jesse Turner; Dorothy and John Rose, mother and father-in-law of hostage Alann Steen; and Elaine and David Collett, wife and son of British hostage Alec Collett. Other U.S. citizens believed held hostage in Lebanon are Thomas Sutherland, Frank Reed, Edward Tracy, Robert Polhill and U.S. Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Higgins.

Chinese vice-premier plan Mideast tour

PEKING (R) — Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun will visit Iran and Iraq and three other Middle Eastern countries next month to strengthen economic ties, diplomats from that region said Monday. They said his visit to Iran and Iraq would focus on Chinese participation in economic reconstruction in the two countries following the Gulf war ceasefire. The two-week tour is expected to begin in early March and also include stops in Turkey, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Hamadi says he appeared at news conference

FRANKFURT (AP) — Confessed TWA hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi Monday acknowledged that he was one of two hooded hostage-takers who appeared at a Beirut news conference during the June 1985 ordeal. A U.S. navy diver was killed and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days after TWA Flight 847 was hijacked and diverted to Beirut after leaving Athens June 14, 1985. Hamadi, charged with air piracy and murder in the hijacking, made his statement after the court was shown a video-tape of the news conference.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 Educational programme
16:15 Religious programme
16:30 News summary in Arabic
16:45 Programme on world news
16:50 Programme on children
17:10 Agricultural programme
17:45 Programme review
18:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Belle Anglaise
18:05 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss
21:10 The Tin Flute
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:29 Sunrise/Dhuhr
11:49 Dhuhr
15:00 Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifish Tel. 810740
Assessments of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624540
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623411
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 665326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822445
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821354

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy with scattered rain in the northern and central re-

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

gions. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman Min./max. temp. 3/13
Aqaba 8/20
Deserts 2/15
Jordan Valley 9/19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Rahim Ahmed 744685
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 894046
Dr. Walid Al Masi 675483
Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 612830
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Naiwakh pharmacy 626772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Radwan Al Sa'ad (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi (—)
Khalilif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 6209093
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65639091
Public Security Department 650000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12

Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 63101
Repairs 63101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husein Medical Centre 81581332
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 6434412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mathas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
Al-Mustashir Hospital 8672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marka 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Anal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 300 / 400
Banana 300 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Beans 700 / 600
Broad beans 420 / 360
Cabbage 200 / 150
Carrots 250 / 200
Cauliflower 180 / 120
Cucumbers 560 / 500
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant 240 / 200
Garlic 220 / 180
Grapefruit 240 / 200
Lemon 240 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 140 / 100
Marrow (large) 400 / 300

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Kuwait (KU)
12:15 Baghdad (IA)
13:30 Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
17:00 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
19:05 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
20:00 Beirut (ME)
20:30 London, Cairo (BA)
06:25 London, Cairo (BA)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:55 Baghdad (RJ)
07:10 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:50 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
15:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
16:20 Miami, Vienna (RJ)
17:55 Copenhagen, Istanbul (RJ)
18:45 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Vienna, New York

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, a seminar, entitled "Local community development" will be held at Plaza Hotel on Feb. 27. The seminar is held by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development. (Petra)

HINDAWI VISITS SALT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thagwan Hindawi Monday visited Salt and attended a number of events organised by the local schools. The minister, accompanied by local education officials, opened a new preparatory school for boys which cost JD 456,000, inaugurated a traditional folk exhibition and opened a secondary school for girls that cost JD 369,000. Hindawi toured schools in Fuheis and Mahe and met with educationists, teachers and heads of education departments to discuss the ministry's programmes in the Balqa region. The minister also attended a tree planting celebration in Fuheis organised by the Balqa Education Department. (Petra)

HMOUD VISITS IRBID: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud Monday visited Irbid and met with its governor and mayor to discuss projects related to the organisation of cities and villages in the Irbid Governorate. Hmoud was briefed by Governor Akram Al Nasser on projects which include the Yarmouk Panorama, the establishment of the recreation city in Irbid and setting up a cultural centre. At the meeting it was decided that a final study be conducted for these projects prior to their implementation. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: Graduation ceremonies for new batches of People's Army recruits were held Monday in the districts of Ramtha, Bani Kinana, and North Ghor. (Petra)

EXHIBITION OF POLISH ART: An exhibition of Polish contemporary art was opened Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. A total of 53 works of art are on display at the exhibition which will last for nine days. (Petra)

TARAWNEH VISITS CSCC: Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh Monday made an inspection tour of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC). He met with its director and heads of various sections to discuss development plans. (Petra)

JORDAN TO ATTEND ATO ASSEMBLY TALKS: The advisor at the Ministry of Tourism Abdul Rahman Abu Rabah will represent the ministry at the emergency meeting of the Arab Tourism Organisation (ATO) general assembly which is due to convene in Tunis Thursday. The discussions will focus on the Arab Social and Economic Council to dissolve ATO. (Petra)

BAD FOOD DISCOVERED: The Ministry of Supply announced Monday the discovery of quantities of food supplies unfit for human consumption and warned merchants and storekeepers against violating Supply Ministry regulations. A ministry official said that violators will be jailed with sentences ranging from one month to six months if caught selling foodstuff unfit for consumption. (Petra)

SAGQAF TO ATTEND RABAT MEETING: Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Al Sagqaf will represent the ministry at the meetings of the Arab Social and Economic Council due to convene in Rabat Thursday. The four-day meetings will discuss the economic situation in the Arab countries. (Petra)

JORDAN ATTENDS INFORMATION TALKS: Jordan is taking part in the Arab League's Standing Information Committee which opened in Tunis Monday. The director general of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ali Safadi, is representing Jordan at the meeting which is being attended by delegates from the Arab League member states. (Petra)

DRUG PEDDLER JAILED: The military court has sentenced Salim Mutlaq Ali Hussein to three years imprisonment and the payment of JD 1,500 for trafficking with dangerous drugs. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

Majali outlines PSD's new programmes to recruits

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali delivered a lecture Monday outlining the department's new programme to develop police work and provide advanced training to PSD personnel in all fields.

In his lecture delivered to new police recruits, including those who had completed their national service with the Armed Forces and joined the PSD force, Majali dwelt on current efforts by the PSD to absorb recruits with high educational qualifications.

The PSD is going ahead with plans to modernise its training programmes with the use of modern equipment, and in helping to attain the objectives of the comprehensive security services for the public, Majali noted.

Majali outlined the main duties of the police force, which include combatting crime, keeping law and order and providing protection for the Jordanian society. A secured society, he said, is capable of advancing in all social and economic fields and carrying out development programmes.



Prince Mohammad visits Amman municipality

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, visited Monday the Greater Amman Municipality building, where he met Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh. Prince Mohammad was briefed by Rawabdeh on the Greater Amman Municipality's duties, the capital's development through different historical periods and the most important projects carried out by the municipality to give the best services to the citizens. Later Prince Mohammad, accompanied by Rawabdeh, toured some of the municipality's projects. (Petra photo)



Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Monday tours the different sections of Queen Alia School in Amman (Petra photo)

Students get hearing aids

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hearing aids were Monday distributed to Jordanian students at a ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, honorary president of the Queen Alia Speech and Hearing Centre.

The ceremony was held at the Queen Alia School in Amman where the Princess handed the aids to the handicapped students and then made a tour of the school where a special unit has been set up to train the deaf in various activities.

The centre, set up by the Ministry of Health, is the first of its kind in the Kingdom and deals with the problems of hearing impaired in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary manner.

Upon the centre's inception, Health Ministry officials revealed that the centre has specialists but that medical services associated with treatment for the hearing impaired are offered at the Jordan University Hospital, the King Hussein Medical Centre and in private hospitals.

Four technicians and specialists have been trained to operate testing equipment and hearing aids before they are offered to the beneficiaries.

Canadian trade team due here on Feb. 24

AMMAN (J.T.) — A technology, trade and investment delegation, under the sponsorship of the Ottawa-based Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC), will arrive in Amman on Feb. 24, a Canadian embassy press release reported Monday.

The CABC, consisting of over 50 prominent Canadian private sector firms active in the Middle East region, is the largest trades association in Canada directing its efforts at the expansion of corporate interest in the Arab World.

The delegation's visit manifests the continuing dedication of the CABC to strengthen commercial linkages with Jordan, and owes its origins to discussions with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during his June 1987 visit to Canada, the press release said.

The CABC subsequently invited senior Jordanian public and private sector representatives to visit Canada in June 1988, and is now undertaking a return visit to Amman to pursue potential business opportunities identified during these consultations.

The delegation will be led by Samir Zalat, vice-president of Ingersoll Rand Canada, and chairman of the Canada-Arab Business Council.

The group includes senior officials of the Department of External Affairs of Canada, as well as the province of Ontario, in addition to thirteen representatives of the Canadian private sector.

Sectors of concentration for the delegation members include: petroleum and natural gas training services, specialty food products manufacture, agro-industry development, telecommunications systems technology, railway and transportation design and engineering services, health care services and vocational education training programmes.

The objective of the delegation is to examine prospects for technology transfer, joint venture and trade opportunities with key Jordanian public and private sector interlocutors, for both domestic and regional application.

"Jordan's strategic position in the Middle East presents a unique opportunity for the development of substantive commercial linkages directed at maximising regional trade and investment opportunities for Canadian firms, as well as providing an excellent site for joint projects in light of a highly trained local workforce and excellent infrastructure to support industrial activities," the press release said.

The health workers will continue to receive regular training as SCF physicians and specialists accompany them on home visits once a week. The workers will refer families to the Ministry of Health clinics in their neighbourhood whenever a health problem requires the services of a physician.

40 community health workers to start work on house-to-house counselling

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of eight health professionals at the Save the Children Federation (SCF), recently completed the training of 40 community health workers who will work with the professionals to provide house-to-house health counselling and monitoring.

The graduates are expected to serve approximately 1,800 homes in Amman, Jabal Al Natheef, Mahatta and Musdar areas, in addition to 400 households in the Bani Hamidah villages. Each of the health workers is expected to provide services to women and children assigned to her in her

neighbourhood. The community health workers' training covered immunisation, breast feeding, growth monitoring, pre and post-natal care, birth spacing, diarrhoeal disease and oral rehydration therapy and techniques to teach adults new health practices.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is contributing to the implementation of the three-year-old project in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development.

Symposium on grain storage ends

Jordan to expand cereal storage capacity to reach 500,000 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on grain storage and handling came to a conclusion Monday after the participants had discussed and reviewed in detail a number of working papers on the subject.

The working papers discussed storing cereals in warehouses, the role of silos and means of transporting the grain.

The symposium, which was organised by the Ministry of Supply and the United States Wheat Association (USWA) through its Cairo office, was addressed by the office's Director, Hassan Abdul Ghaffar, who paid tribute to Jordan's efforts through the Ministry of Supply to organise the process of storing cereals to ensure sufficient quantities for the local consumers.

Abdul Ghaffar noted that Jordan's cereal storage capacity now stands at 300,000 tonnes and is being expanded to reach 500,000 in the near future, after the construction of new silos have been completed. Abdul Ghaffar added that the silos' capacity in Egypt is only 600,000 tonnes.

At the end of the symposium, Ministry of Supply's Secretary

General Abdullah Al Hawamdeh distributed certificates to the participants and presented the ministry's shield to Abdul Ghaffar in recognition of his efforts through the USWA, and medals to a number of those who took part in the symposium.

Following the conclusion of the symposium, Hawamdeh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that with its trained staff and expanding facilities and silos and the employment of modern equipment, Jordan is eligible to store cereals and grain for a number of countries in the region for a long period of time.

"For the time being the Ministry of Supply is endeavouring to store cereals in Jordan sufficient for the country's needs for at least six months, but it is at the same time going ahead with programmes to expand the capacity of its cereal silos to raise their capacity to 500,000 tonnes," Hawamdeh

noted.

He said that the USWA's selection of Jordan as the venue for the symposium, which has just ended, reflects that corporations' recognition of this country's sound plans in this regard.

Hawamdeh also paid tribute to the USWA for its valuable assistance to Jordan, especially in training technicians and providing information on means of storing cereals.

Among the most important topics discussed at the symposium was proper means of protecting the environment from pollution resulting from the cereal dust that comes out as a result of storage processes, and using the dust as a kind of fertiliser or animal feed, according to Abdul Ghaffar.

He said that the USWA places its experience and expertise at the disposal of the countries in the Middle East to help them carry out proper handling and storage of their cereals.

Participants in the regional symposium have visited the Jweideh complex, south of Amman, which contains the silos and warehouses operated by the Ministry of Supply.

Joint Jordanian, Syrian Land Transport Company carries 1.5m tonnes of goods

DAMASCUS (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company's general assembly opened an annual meeting here Monday and was told that its fleet of trucks transported 1.5 million tonnes of goods between Jordan and Syria and between the two countries and the rest of the Arab World.

The transportation of these goods took place from 1986 when the company was established, according to the company's Director General Jamil Nazif who was addressing the joint meeting.

The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and his Syrian counterpart Youssef Ahmad who Sunday presided over a general assembly meeting by the Joint Syrian-Jordanian Maritime Company's general assembly.

Haj Hassan said that the land

transport company provided a valuable service to the Syrian and Jordanian national economies since it was established three years ago, and added that the company represented one of the fruits of close cooperation between the two brotherly states under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The Syrian minister for his part stressed Syria's keenness for bolstering relations with Jordan and promoting joint action through the joint companies.

According to Nazif, the general assembly meeting aims at opening new avenues of cooperation between the two countries through the joint company.

He said that the company's assembly has endorsed a 1989 budget and discussed matters related to the modernisation of the company's fleet of trucks.

The joint maritime company's general assembly held a meeting in Damascus Sunday and discussed a 1989 budget, operations for the current year and expanding the company's fleet of merchant ships.

Haj Hassan had said that the two sides will look into the prospect of purchasing another cargo vessel for the company to raise its fleet to three.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zou'bi received in his office in Damascus Monday the Syrian and Jordanian ministers of transport who briefed him on the outcome of the general assembly meetings and future steps for expansion.

Zou'bi was quoted as paying tribute to the company's efforts to bolster cooperation between Syrian and Jordan. Jordan's ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid attended the meeting.

Labour Ministry issues 63,050 work permits for non-Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A wide scale campaign launched by the Ministry of Labour and the Public Security Department (PSD) to control the local labour market has yielded good results, according

to a statement by a ministry official.

He said that the ministry issued 63,050 work permits to non-Jordanian workers during 1988, with the month of December having the lion's share and accounting for 19,168 permits.

According to the official 40,629 permits were issued to Egyptian nationals, 3,483 permits to Syrians, and 15,126 to non-Arab nationals from Asia.

The past year witnessed a drop of 16,761 in the number of work permits issued to non-Jordanians for employment in the country compared to the figure of the previous year, largely due to the Ministry of Labour's campaign which was represented in teams of officials touring all private and public organisations to ensure

that employees were working in fields for which they were employed.

The official paid tribute to the employers of foreign workers for their cooperation with the ministry teams that helped control the local labour market.

According to Mr. Mohammad Haddid, director of the ministry's Amman Employment Department, teams have been assigned to the task of carrying out inspection tours of different firms and institutions.

The teams were sent out following repeated violations on the part of the workers and the employers who had been warned not to be conducted business with the non-Jordanian workers in violation of regulations, Haddid noted.

Consortium Classicum gives very successful performance in Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the Goethe Institute Amman presented a remarkable chamber music concert on Saturday, Feb. 18, 1989 by the famous German ensemble, Consortium Classicum.

Germot Schmalzfuss and Christian Hartmann on oboe, Dieter Kloecker and Walde-mar Wandel on clarinet, Jan Schroeder and Rolf-Juergen Eisermann on French horn, Karl-Otto Hartmann and Eberhard Buschmann on bassoon and Juergen Normann on double bass are the members of the Consortium Classicum nonette.

Four works were interpreted by the ensemble, Partita in E-flat major by Joseph Haydn, excerpts for wind instruments from Carl Maria von Weber's opera Der Freischutz (the Demon Hunter), an Octet Concertant by Johann Nepomuk Hummel and Sereade in C-minor KV388 by W.A.

Mozart.

The background of each member of the orchestra is impressive enough in itself, soloists and leaders with first class orchestra, professors from the best music academies, awards, recordings, etc... However, one does not need to have a prior knowledge of this data to immediately realise — while listening to their performance for the first time — that the Consortium Classicum plays superbly.

Another credit to the ensemble is the obvious joy they take at performing. Their personal attitude on stage makes music even more alive and establishes a warm and pleasant contact with the audience.

In summary, very few performances have been so successful in Amman or have touched the audience as much as the Consortium's. The enthusiastic and extended applause at the end of the concert brought the ensemble back to the stage two times for more pieces, played with the same beautiful spirit, one of them being the famous "Military March" by Schubert.

It might be interesting to note that the concert by the Consortium Classicum is the second event presented by the Conservatory and the NHF in less than one week, the first one being the piano recital by the Duo Gerard last Thursday. The Consortium's performance is also the second high class music event in Amman, in less than a month, remembering the exceptional piano recital by Walid Hourani on Feb. 1st. Quite a treat for all music lovers in Jordan.

MUSIC REVIEW

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragossian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Luz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of Polish contemporary art at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of Islamic art and calligraphy by Jordanian artist Mohammad Mubaidin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition on Alia, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of Arabic books which includes 15,000 books on science, education and culture at the Karak Community College.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Yahya at Alia Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- * Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet will be performed by the London Shakespeare Group at the University of Jordan — 4:00 p.m.
- * An exhibition of paintings by French artist Francoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by Dr. Stephen Freyberger entitled "The Thythaon of Al Sanamein — a preliminary report on the exploration of Roman temples in Syria" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * Two films shown as part of the American Centre's programmes "Filmmakers": The first is on Stan Brakhage and the other on Robert Fulton — 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Shevardnadze's mission

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's on-going visit to Arab capitals comes amidst reports that the idea of holding an international conference on the Middle East is being subjected to conflicting gravitational pulls. Whereas, for example, the Soviet Union has reaffirmed, through its foreign minister, that it continues to regard the holding of such a conference as a strategic objective, the U.S. has been maintaining its old position that such a conference cannot have but a tactical significance, i.e., some kind of "wedding ceremony" to celebrate and solemnise the agreements between the parties to the conflict that would ensue from direct negotiations between them.

Obviously the Arab side continues, and rightly so, to cling to the Soviet perspective whereas Israel still opts for the American view. Of late, however, the Israeli position on the idea of the international conference has registered a movement in the direction of accepting such a conference under the aegis of the two superpowers rather than under the umbrella of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The U.S. would of course accept such a formula as long as Israel signals its agreement to it. This would be in keeping with Washington's traditional stand on the Middle East conflict which calls for a green light from Tel Aviv before the U.S. would nod in agreement to anything that touches the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Accordingly there is no hope really of ever changing the American outlook unless the Israelis consent to such a change. That is why the Soviet reactivated involvement in the peace process is so important because on it hinges the future of the whole exercise to breathe life into the idea of an international conference.

As more and more bridges get constructed between Moscow and Tel Aviv, the chances would get better for the Soviet Union to succeed in convincing the Israeli government to yield to the idea of an effective international peace conference. When Israel gets convinced, so would the U.S. That is why Shevardnadze's talks with his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens in Cairo could offer the breakthrough that the whole region has been hoping for.

The secret of Mr. Shevardnadze's success with Mr. Arens would necessarily rest on the degree of his success to alleviate the fears of the Israeli government that the permanent members of the Security Council would gang up on Israel in favour of the Arab parties. What the Soviet foreign minister "whispers" in the ears of Mr. Arens could very well remove the last obstacles to holding the much awaited international conference. If the Soviet Union can deliver the Israeli government, it would have made such a spectacular achievement comparable to its launching of the first ever orbiter into space in 1957. In any case the Soviet Union needs to deliver something spectacular to the world after its withdrawal from Afghanistan.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper on Monday dwelt on Israeli propaganda campaigns against the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council. The paper said that such hostile action was expected from the first instant, and the Israeli media are now playing the Iraqi-Syrian disputes tune to try to poison the Arab atmosphere. This early campaign on the Arab Cooperation Council is a natural expression of the feelings of concern and worry over the Arab group's future actions and clearly indicates that the Israelis are frustrated over their failure to achieve the dream of having to deal with divided Arab countries and a poor Arab World, the paper noted. It said that Israel is now facing a group of four Arab countries with vast human and natural resources located in a very important strategic position and capable of offsetting Israel's superiority in every field. It is because of Israel's fears of such unity among the Arabs, said the paper, that these media campaigns are being launched on the Arabs.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the Soviet foreign minister visit to the Middle East and says that it is of real significance coming in the wake of the Soviet pull out from Afghanistan.

Mahmoud Rimawi says that now that the Soviets are out of Afghanistan. They find sufficient time to think of and tackle other hot questions like the Middle East which is an urgent matter for all countries in view of its far reaching dimensions. The Soviet minister came to the Middle East following tours by American and European officials and envoys in a bid to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict and his talks with regional leaders must be of extreme importance, the writer says. What is clear from this visit though is Moscow's readiness now to call a meeting by the Security Council to pave the way for an international conference on the Middle East. But the most significant step of all, according to the writer, is Moscow's determination to open contacts with the Israelis, a move which is manifesting itself in the coming meeting between the Soviet minister and his Israeli counterpart in Cairo. Generally speaking, the writer says, the whole tour is a determined attempt on the part of Moscow to help the Middle East parties come together and reach a formula for peace.

Al Dastour daily also dwelt on Shevardnadze's tour of the Middle East and said that in his meetings with King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials the minister heard Jordan's support for Moscow's bid to bring about peace in our region. It is no secret at the Jordanian and Soviet positions with regard to the Middle East question are almost identical since both sides seek to establish peace based on justice, the paper noted. It said that the Soviet envoy who paid tribute to the King's courageous national stands is determined to help the Arabs reach a settlement and Jordan for its part considers Moscow's fresh initiative as a very constructive step that would lead to genuine and lasting peace.

'Both superpowers should learn from Afghanistan'

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — As the last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, U.S. observers say there is little cause to gloat and that both superpowers should ask themselves more carefully in future whether they have the stomach for "dirty little wars."

"There are sobering lessons for both Washington and Moscow here," Selig Harrison of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment said. "And lest we forget Vietnam, the Russians are not grabbing helicopter skids as they go."

"There's embarrassment for the Soviets, but they didn't get whipped. They decided the financial and propaganda costs were getting too high to stick around," said former U.S. defence secretary Harold Brown.

Military and political observers said in interviews that both superpowers should learn the following, sobering lessons as Moscow ends its bloody Afghan involvement that began in 1979:

— As in Vietnam, where U.S. embassy employees fled from the roof in helicopters when Saigon fell to the Communists in April 1975, the superpowers must decide more carefully in the future

whether they have stomach for "dirty little wars."

High-technology arms, such as the U.S.-supplied Stinger anti-aircraft missiles used by the Afghan rebels, have made it difficult for modern armies to quash guerrillas of the right or left, especially in Third World nations where underdogs are used to the poverty and hardship that accompany war.

— Although the Communist government in Afghanistan is likely to fall to the Mujahideen guerrillas, there is no guarantee that religious fundamentalists who take over will commit them-

selves to close relations with either superpower.

"The Soviets now know that, unlike Eastern Europe, some people are not educated enough to accept the premise that it's 'better red than dead'," said the last U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, Graham Martin.

Martin, who left Saigon in a helicopter with the folded U.S. flag in his lap, said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had simply decided to cut Moscow's losses.

"It's not a matter of morals in this case. It's geopolitics," he told Reuters by telephone from his home in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

In a frank analysis of what he called the "Afghan lesson", one senior U.S. defence official said the pull-out would probably lead to moves to contain superpower flashpoints around the world.

"I think you'll see more cooperation on Central and South America. The Soviets are already starting to stress politics over muscle in going for the trade money in Southeast Asia," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Other private and Pentagon analysts said the United States should note the success of Central Intelligence Agency-supplied weapons to the Afghan guerrillas.

They said the shoulder-fired Stingers kept the Soviet army from dominating the air.

"It ought to remind us that if we get into a fight with Libya or Syria or someone else who can get Soviet weapons, we had better be prepared to deal with very good anti-aircraft missiles," said Barry Blechman of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

"Maybe the upshot is that everyone from Brazil to France is making good weapons these days," said a U.S. congressional aide. "And a lot of them are for sale on the open market."

'Revolt brings bad government'

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — The French have launched a yearlong celebration of their Revolution's bicentennial. It comes when the worth of revolution was never more in question. In 1789 and after, they gave at least as many examples of the lasting damage and distress it causes as of the flowering of ideals it can release.

Wisely, the French are emphasising the Declaration of the Rights of Man, on Aug. 26, 1789, and not the murderous passions of the times. Indeed, it is only recently that the profound divide in French society has been narrowed.

There is irony in the French conviction that the Revolution marked an enduring victory over tyranny. Eleven years after the King was beheaded (1793) a new crown was placed on the head of an Emperor (1804). In the 200 years since the fall of the Bastille, France has had three kings and two emperors. It has been a Republic for only 120 of those years, and many of the French still say with a wry chuckle, "At heart, we're monarchists."

But there are still many people, in many countries, for whom the word revolution has a noble, almost sacred ring. They look at

the aspirations, seldom at the results. In this context some French scholars deny that the American War of Independence was a revolution. It did enshrine ideas of liberty and justice, but it did not turn the whole society upside down as the French, Russian and Chinese Revolutions tried to do. And therefore, it did not leave the wreckage of those vast social upheavals.

Awareness of that self-inflicted wreckage is beginning to spread now, toward the end of our revolutionary century. The word may still be revered, but belief that it can deliver the promised land on earth has ebbed, not only in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China but in third world countries like Algeria, Mozambique, Burma and others with failed experiments.

It has been demonstrated again and again that not only are the ends corrupted by the means, but the noble ends justify all means, but the dynamic of revolution brings bad government. The violence and authoritarianism needed to bring revolt to success reproduces itself in the new regime, sometimes much worse than before, as Iran has shown.

The kind of people who emerge as compelling leaders are

seldom the kind of people who are willing and able to manage a decent government and practice the inspiring visions that they preach. The old Communist slogan justifying terror — there is no birth without labour pains — has a hidden double meaning. The greater the pain caused in the name of bringing forth a new society, the longer and harder the healing.

Winston Churchill was right about the shortcomings of democracy, but it is more than just better than all the other systems. Its greatest virtue is its capacity to correct mistakes without a new revolution. It can adjust to needed change, as there are always new problems, new circumstances that have to be accommodated.

By its modest and generous nature, democracy avoids the self-destructive illusion that anybody can have the permanent and absolute solution to society's ills. We have a tendency to use the word revolution lightly. We shouldn't because the all-important difference isn't in whether or not change comes, it always does, but in how it is achieved.

There can be a deceptive stability in a frozen system, until it breaks down. Real stability only comes with suppleness and flex-

ibility, the capacity to perceive shifting needs and bend to them. That is not the legacy of romantic revolution, but of tedious reform.

There seem to be cycles in human affairs. The world is now emerging from a period of ideological righteousness in favour of practical, pragmatic efforts, identifying troubles and looking for things to do about them. Much of this century was mesmerised, and devastated, by grand designs, great leaps forward.

But we should not suppose that the current cycle will endure on its own momentum. There are likely to be new impulses for dramatic visions. It is a basic human yearning. Each generation tends to feel its predecessors got things all wrong, to be impatient. And there are always politicians who are better at arousing people, stirring emotions, than at governing, and who seek prominence by what they do best.

Radicals can come as reactionaries or revolutionaries, but they do come, and find their audiences. So the task of rationalists and responsible people is to guide change step by step, to prevent the accumulation of frustration and despair, which lead to revolutionary disaster — The New York Times.

Shevardnadze wins Egyptian support

Continued from page 1

things hinge on Israel's position. "The Arabs and Palestinians have done many important things towards convening the conference. Other things regarding the Israeli position we hope to discover in our meeting with Arens."

Shevardnadze, who arrived earlier Sunday from Damascus, said Jordanian and Soviet leaders were in almost total agreement on the main aspects of an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he wanted peace talks under the sole auspices of the two superpowers.

Shevardnadze said in Amman that Shamir's remarks needed study.

"We believe the major link at this time is the U.N. Security Council and the parties to the conflict themselves. But within this general outlook there might

be some flexible methods that need discussion and study," he said.

Asked on departure about resuming relations with Israel, broken during the 1967 war, the Soviet minister replied: "First let us convene the conference and then there will be no problems on diplomatic issues."

The Soviet minister has suggested that the foreign ministers of the five permanent U.N. Security Council states — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — begin preparation for the conference.

They would then contact the parties involved and "assume the function of a preparatory body for the conference."

The United Nations as a whole and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would also help the parties involved work out their differences, he said.

But he told reporters in Amman that "no country can come up with a proposal acceptable to all parties from the beginning. What is required is a united effort to prepare an acceptable plan to convene and international conference."

"Therefore, I say I do not have a special proposal in my pocket," Shevardnadze said in Syria he had sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker before his tour and that he would meet Baker in Vienna March 6 "to coordinate stands on the Middle East."

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said he did not think an early meeting of the big powers was the best way to resolve the Middle East crisis. "We think there ought to be some quiet consultation before we ever get close to that," he said on television.

Israelis destroy 4 Palestinian homes

Continued from page 1

The military is looking into incidents in which two other Palestinian children were killed and eight wounded by unidentified exploding objects.

Husseini: No army

In another development, Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini, considered a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) supporter in the occupied territories, made a conciliatory gesture to Israel, saying a Palestinian state would not need an army.

"What do armies do in this part of the world?" Husseini was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post newspaper during a speech in Tel Aviv. "Either they take

over the country in coups or they end up in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) in other ways."

Husseini was released from Israeli detention last month after spending 18 of the past 22 months in prison without benefit of a trial. Since his release, he has met with several left-wing and liberal Israeli legislators.

Speaking in Hebrew, Husseini told 200 members of the Israeli organisation "Stop the Occupation" in Tel Aviv he had decided to continue to meet Israelis despite the arrest of his friend, journalist Saman Khouri.

Khouri attended a meeting with Husseini and Israeli members of parliament last week and was jailed later for six months

without trial. Police said his arrest, on suspicion of working for an outlawed group, had no link to the meeting.

"We will continue to speak with Israelis," Husseini said to applause.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has criticised dovish opponents for their meetings with Husseini but did not rule out the government making a similar move.

Shamir said Sunday that Husseini's three meetings with Israeli politicians last week were damaging even though participants, including members of parliament, said the talks bolstered Arab-Israeli understanding.

ACC continues to draw support

Continued from page 1

Hassan Ibrahim called in a statement here Monday for close cooperation among the three Arab groups — the ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union — to build up a stronger Arab economy.

Ibrahim, addressing a press conference at the offices of the Amman-based CAEU, said the formation of the three groups constitutes the first constructive step towards total Arab unity.

The Foreign Ministry here announced Monday that the Iraqi government had referred to it documents ratifying the ACC since Amman would serve as the headquarters for the group.

Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassim Hussein presented the document to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem at a meeting at the Foreign Ministry.

ambassador the pen with which the four heads of state had signed the historic document proclaiming the birth of the ACC.

An official statement said that the Foreign Ministry would continue to handle matters related to these documents until a permanent headquarters for the ACC is established in Amman.

In Cairo, Egyptian Health Minister Mohammad Dweidar said that the ACC was bound to open the way for real progress in the field of pharmaceutical production and marketing among the four countries.

Drinking water in Amman — solutions in blending

Continued from page 1

Salemech was one expert who voiced objection to the use of EGC for Amman, saying that the canal was initially intended to be used for irrigation "and should stay that way."

According to Salemech, different water sources enter the EGC, which extends for 85 kilometres from the Yarmouk River in the north. The sources originate mainly from river water and partly from surface reservoirs, with only a few groundwater discharges.

"The EGC flows through different towns and villages and is crossed by many roads in addition to the main road along the Jordan Valley which crosses it at numerous points," he said.

He added that this contradicts the 1987 Thames report which concluded that the EGC

water can be used for domestic use only if:

— No other sources join the Yarmouk River water flowing into the EGC;

— The EGC is fenced and no one is allowed to bathe in the water;

— Insecticides and pesticides are kept away from the EGC;

— The treatment at the Zai plant is improved.

However, Salemech stresses that even if all these conditions are met, there "remains one major problem — the undegenerable THM — a byproduct of chlorinated organic material. The EGC is exposed to these materials."

A professor of chemistry at the University of Jordan, Dr. Mahmoud Alawi, commented on some of the organic pollutants and organic carbons, of which some become THM once chlorinated, and explained how

they might reach the waterways.

Polyaromatic carbons (PAC) are one such pollutant, which originates from smoke from the burning of garbage or from the chimneys of industries, the exhaust of vehicles — many which use diesel fuel — and fuel used for homes, "entering the atmosphere and coming down as solid substances, settling on roads and washed into the drainages when it rains," said Alawi.

Polychlorinated bi-phenyles (PCB) are another pollutant which is released when their source, transformers and appliances, are thrown in garbage dumps and begin to rust. PCB contaminates the soil and then is drained into the waterways when it rains.

Both PAC and PCB have compounds which can not be

broken down, and therefore accumulate once they enter the human body, and becoming carcinogenic.

Moreover, when PCB combines with other organic compounds such as pesticides and solvents, "it accumulates on the fats of the body," said Alawi.

He said that it was especially dangerous for breastfed children since a mother's milk contains three to five per cent fat. "The mother is feeding her baby some of contaminated fat, which will have a greater effect on a small baby than on adults," Alawi said.

Presently, the University of Jordan Hospital, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, is checking for contaminated mother's milk. The project is to last four to eight weeks.

Union Carbide seen as victor in Bhopal disaster settlement

By Bill Tarrant
Reuters

BHOPAL, India — "Killer Carbide must be punished," say slogans on the walls surrounding the shut-down Union Carbide plant in this central Indian city where thousands died in a gas leak more than four years ago.

But in the end the company was not blamed for the deadly cloud of gas that spewed from its pesticides factory and rolled through a sleeping city on December 3, 1984, in what has been called the world's worst industrial disaster.

Many people in Bhopal, which is still treating tens of thousands of the sick, said the \$470 million Union Carbide agreed to pay to the victims was not nearly enough.

Several thousand demonstrators, most of them women, marched through Bhopal on Saturday protesting against Tuesday's surprise supreme court judgment, demanding more money and the pressing of criminal charges against the U.S.-based corporation.

The court did not blame Union Carbide for the disaster and its order dismissed all past, present and future civil or criminal suits against the company.

"By agreeing to drop the criminal charges, the government has allowed the guilty off and the killer multinational to go scot-free," said Vinod Raina of the Bhopal group for information and action.

Opposition parties accused the government of a sell-out in a general election year and of caving in before the power of a multinational company.

Even pro-government newspapers and government officials expressed outrage at the judgement.

The Times of India said the supreme court "made a hasty decision to duck all issues" and avoided the critical question of liability which, it said, could have "set a precedent for other Third World victims in similar situations."

"The pittance that will reach the victims is bound to be seen by them as an insult... the supreme court treated them as people whose lives are only worth a fraction of those of, say, Americans," it said in the editorial.

"This was a victory for multinationals operating in the Third World," said a senior official of the Madhya Pradesh government in the state capital, Bhopal.

"Principles were sacrificed for

expediency and justice was a victim," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"Union Carbide profits," said another official. "Union Carbide has the last laugh after all. No, call it a guffaw."

Officially, the Madhya Pradesh government supported the ruling, saying it brought to an end uncertainties over the long legal dispute.

Union Carbide lawyers said this week they were happy with the judgment precisely because it did not assign blame. "This was a compromise, a settlement. Liability was not an issue in the end," said lawyer William Krohler.

Union Carbide has always denied liability on the grounds that it did not directly own the plant, which was operated by its Indian subsidiary and regulated by the Indian government.

The company also accused an unidentified employee at the plant of deliberately causing the disaster, a circumstance which if proved would have absolved it of liability.

The settlement lifted a shadow that had hung over the parent company for the past four years.

Union Carbide shares rose more than \$2 on the New York Stock Exchange and it was the most actively traded share issue on the day the news was announced.

A statement from the Danbury, Connecticut, headquarters said it would take a charge against 1988 earnings equal to 30 cents a share to help pay for the settlement.

More than 2,000 people, many of them living in a teeming shantytown around the plant, awoke vomiting and died within minutes as tons of methyl isocyanate gas swept silently towards the sleeping city. Since then, victims who could not escape the yellow gas cloud have died at the rate of nearly one a day.

The Madhya Pradesh government said at least 320,000 of the nearly 600,000 people who survived to put in claims have been medically examined and could qualify for compensation.

Three new hospitals, a half-dozen out-patient clinics and a diagnostic centre have been built to cope with an estimated 10,000 victims who require treatment daily.

A government spokesman said another 700 people who died after long illnesses could be added to the official death toll of 3,403.

JORDAN PRESS COMMENTARIES

Expiry dates

By Salah Abdul Samad

Dates that are normally printed on canned foodstuffs are of paramount importance for the consumers because they are intended to ensure people's safety and health. The date fixed on the food stuff gives indication as to the period of time during which the consumers can eat the purchased foodstuff quite safely.

In order for this practice to serve its purpose, there is need to request all shopkeepers and merchants and those who sell them foodstuffs, in the private or the public sector, to stick a red mark on those preserved foods or cans indicating that expiry date is drawing near, say one month.

This red mark can be provided by the Ministry of Supply so that all preserved foods of this kind will carry the same identical mark. This practice is bound to help consumers to decide on the quantity or quality of food purchases they make according to their needs and can ensure that the food they buy is fit for human consumption.

This practice is also designed to provide protection to the con-

sumers and can serve as a warning to them to avoid hoarding large amounts of say "frozen chicken" or canned food which could be approaching their expiry date.

This practice, if applied, would prompt the consumers to buy limited amounts of foodstuff according to their immediate requirements and so avoid having to throw away bad food. We have great hope that the Ministry of Supply will respond to this request knowing well that in some countries foodstuffs whose expiry is due in three months are not allowed to find their way to the market at all.

LETTERS

Question

To the Editor:

A question to the World Health Organisation: "Is there any way to combat the hydrophobia that has spread like an epidemic among Israeli soldiers and settlers?"

Georgina
Amman

Features

Helping China manage an open economy

By William N. Raiford

PEKING — The high-level gathering that assembled in Peking's Dao Yutai State Guest House represented deeply contrasting experiences. One of the participants, Chung Hoon-mok, was President of Korea's Hyundai Engineering and Construction Corp., among the largest and most aggressive transnational corporations in the world. Only a little over a decade ago, he would have been vilified in China as a rapacious capitalist. No longer. Seated across from Chung was Di Changming, Director of Peking's

government-owned Number One Cotton Mill. Although the two men are products of different ideological systems, they swapped ideas with an ease that reflects China's growing interest in how private businesses abroad operate.

More specifically, Chung possesses the advanced management expertise that China is now eager to adapt to its own uses. Along with nine other guests from Asian nations with largely free market economies, he was in Peking for a two-day seminar with seven prominent Chinese government officials and managers of leading

state enterprises. The seminar's aim: to foster an exchange of ideas on improving productivity at every level of management, from strategic planning to increasing worker efficiency on the factory floor.

As has happened so often in recent years when the Chinese sought advice on carrying out their sweeping economic reforms, the government looked to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for help. Organising the seminar posed little difficulty; this year, UNDP has scheduled no less than 170 similar symposiums in over 80 countries, all dealing with the theme of how to stimulate business initiative. "We tried to bring together experts who could explain exactly how they did things in their own government or place of business," says Manfred Kulessa, UNDP's former Resident Representative in Peking. "There were some interesting surprises. For one thing, we learned that a Chinese factory manager could often get decisions faster from his government bureaucracy than top private sector chief executives could from their own boards of directors."

The meeting — held at the end of July 1988 — could not have come at a more opportune moment. The following week, the government's new Industrial Enterprise Law took effect, requiring all state-owned enterprises to show a profit. For the first time, Chinese firms running at a loss may have to merge with more profitable enterprises — or go bankrupt.

This has put added strains on the directors of Chinese businesses that foreign managers such as Chung have never faced. As described by Di, China's top executives face pressures from two sides: their own workers, who elect them, and the government, which owns each plant and holds its director ultimately accountable for turning a profit. Chung posed a flurry of questions. Who in China decides how much a director can invest? Who

says how he should price his products and where he can purchase his raw materials? Could Di, for instance, hire, fire and deploy workers as he wished?

Di answered that he was at the centre of a nation in transition from a government that once monopolised all decisions to a system of managerial accountability. He went on to explain that he was elected to his directorship by his workers for a five year term but his appointment had to be approved by the government. He signs an annual production contract with the government, but then is free to direct his employees and company operations as he chooses. Theoretically, he has power to hire and fire, but conceded that it is still hard to dismiss non-performers. "Only ten or eleven people were let go last year," Di said. That is hardly a significant number in an enterprise that totals 6,000 employees.

Unlike Hyundai, which shops around among a number of private banks in Korea and elsewhere for capital, Di has no choice: all investment funds come from the State. The government also requires 90 per cent of the high quality fabric and finished apparel that his firm produces for export. Last year, these exports accounted for most of the mill's 12.5 per cent profit. Some of that money was distributed as incentives to employees; most was reinvested.

Rong Yiren, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress, which has passed on all of China's sweeping reforms, told the panel that competition was no longer confined to capitalism. "It is also compatible with socialism as an instrument for greater efficiency," he said. In fact, the free-wheeling discussion seldom touched on ideological issues. "We were not talking about public versus private," said Andrew Joseph, UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, "as much as looking for the most effective relationship between the two."

China is now in the midst of carrying out one of the most radical, peaceful economic restructuring in history. The first stages — rural reform and opening up the economy to foreign trade, technology and investment — proved to be dramatically successful. Economic growth averaged 8.7 per cent a year from 1979 to 1986.

Now price and enterprise reforms are at the top of the agenda, and this may be the most difficult stage of all. Decontrolling prices led to a 13 per cent spurt in inflation in the first half of 1988, affecting every household and business. Not surprisingly, the attempt to make management of state enterprises independent of government has run into entrenched interests. Although few workers have so far lost their jobs due to the reforms, many fear that they may do so.

Most of the problems posed by the reforms are completely new to China's current generation of economic managers. The anti-intellectual spasms that marked the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution decimated the previous generation of educated persons. Probably the most critical need in the country today is to fill the gap in trained personnel.

To do this, China has turned principally to the market econo-

mies of Asia and the West for help, as well as the U.N. system. When it wanted to set up a stock market, it invited the director of the New York Stock Exchange to lend his advice. When it decided that the time had come to prepare an analysis of the main issues posed by the whole reform process, it turned to the World Bank. And when it seeks the technical skills needed to implement those reforms, it often turns to UNDP.

UNDP currently provides support to the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System, whose Vice Chairman, Gao Shang Quan, co-chaired the seminar. It is also helping the Ministry of Finance to develop new tax and budget policies, and is assisting the State Planning Council in setting up a new system for the exchange of economic data.

But UNDP's main support for China's economic reforms is providing access to outside experts. It has sent hundreds of Chinese abroad for hands-on study and brought 2000 international consultants to China to provide short-term policy support and training. The results of these efforts are difficult to quantify. But over the long run, they could prove to be among the most cost-effective initiatives that UNDP has ever undertaken — *World Development*.



Reforms in large enterprises are aimed at changing the work habits of millions of urban Chinese.

'We don't serve wheelchairs'

By Ben Dobbin
The Associated Press

LONDON — Twenty years ago, Bert Massie had trouble getting served in restaurants. Fire regulations were cited to keep him out of cinemas and nightclubs. On train journeys, he rode in the guard's compartment, caged in without light, heating or access to a toilet.

Massie, 39, is a polio victim, wheelchair-bound since childhood. Disabled people in Britain have made impressive advances

in 20 years, but welfare groups say many suffer poor facilities, unemployment, poverty and public indifference.

"There has been a transformation. That's not to say there's not a lot more to do," said Massie. He recalls entering a cafe in northern England in the late 1960s and the manageress "came up to me and said, 'we don't serve wheelchairs.' I told her the wheelchair wasn't hungry."

Nowadays, he said, restaurants automatically remove a chair at a table for him, cinema and nightclub workers carry him upstairs to

a seat, and British Rail, given one or two days' notice, will provide a space in a first-class compartment for a second-class ticket.

But branch-line trains with non-sliding doors still relegate wheelchair users to the caboose. All public buildings built since 1987 must be wheelchair-accessible. But many existing offices, hotels, shops, restaurants, pubs and theatres in London, like other European cities, have steps and lack suitable elevators and toilets.

"I think a lot of people are in the margin... I don't think disabled people yet are treated as totally equal citizens," said Massie, an assistant director in the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, a national umbrella body for 440 disability groups.

Critics say the government does not adequately cover the extra costs of being disabled, leaving many caught in what opposition Labour Party legislator Jack Ashley called "a poverty trap."

Ashley, who is deaf, said in an interview: "Because many of them are poor, they clearly aren't able to integrate into society as much as they ought to be able to and we want better financial provision for them."

"Poverty is something which is almost part and parcel of disability," said Ashley, chairman of the all-party disablement group in parliament.

Disabled rights groups want a tax-free national disability income of \$70-225 a week.

A 1985-88 government survey found that 6.2 million adults in Britain, or one in nine, have at least one disability that significantly impairs their activity. Almost 70 per cent are over 60. The report said disabled people under 65 earned an average net income of \$171 a week, compared with \$238 among the general population. Most disabled live on state aid, it said.

The conservative government said it spent \$12 billion last year on disability benefits, 90 per cent more in real terms than in 1979

when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher took power.

But critics say the government is cutting back, slowing down funds for remodeling private houses and preventing disabled people moving out of state institutions.

"There is a constant battle making sure what has been won will not be lost," Massie said. Disability groups estimate that about two-thirds of disabled people available for work are unemployed. The law obliges companies to hire a quota of disabled people, but statistics show only 27 per cent comply.

The 1944 law says "it is not an offence to be below quota" unless an employer rejects a suitable disabled person.

Ashley said violators should face fines that would go to "good employers to adapt their premises."

"In certain cases, there are not enough disabled people to fill those jobs," said employment department spokesman Mike Webb. "Any firm can ask for exemption and it is almost always granted."

The government said it is committed to integrating disabled children into mainstream schools, and pays \$54,000 adults \$40 a week "mobility allowance" enabling many to buy cars.

Alice O'Flynn, 52, a wheelchair-bound stroke victim, said she gets by on a weekly income of \$165.

"I think we're put on the scrapheap," she said. "It can be difficult at times. I have to go without."

The national health service provides free wheelchairs, artificial limbs and hearing aids.

Specially adapted buses operate between major rail stations and to airports, and two London sightseeing buses have recently been fitted with elevators. By the year 2000, all taxis must have access for wheelchair users.

London's subways and buses are largely inaccessible to wheelchair users, and some sports stadiums lack parking places for the disabled.



Workers at Peking Number 1 Cotton Textile Mill can elect their director — and are also hard to fire.

Powers from their forefathers — in a Java Kingdom

By Elizabeth Pisani
Reuters

ANYER, Indonesia — After 10 days fasting most people would be happy to eat anything. Achmad Djunaedi chose a light bulb.

Djunaedi, who says his family has prayed, fasted and indulged in a variety of self-inflicted brutalities for 53 generations, crunched happily on his brittle meal.

He is one of a family of Debus players, Islamic ascetics from West Java who immunise themselves against pain and injury through the strength of their belief.

They are thought to have originated in India many centuries

ago and were for long concentrated in the North Java Kingdom of Banten where their reputation for invulnerability made them hot commodities in the 17th century resistance to Dutch colonialism.

There is a long tradition of public display of their powers, but performances are rare since the Debus must fast for 10 days before and after each show to ensure God will protect them from the normal consequences of their slashings and burnings.

While they used to impress crowds in local marketplaces with the fruits of a dutiful religious life, they now perform at tourist resorts, raking in \$170 a show.

On a recent visit, the audience toyed with lobster as Djunaedi

chomped on his less appetising meal.

Then, not content with driving a 14 kilogramme stake into his stomach, slashing his tongue and rolling over shattered glass, Djunaedi went after his 11-year-old niece with a razor-sharp chopper.

Her judo-style evasion tactics were no match for him — she had only been in training for five years. He soon had her on the ground and was slashing fiercely at her neck.

Like the rest of the Ascetics, she appeared to be completely unscathed.

Her face was expressionless, but at a wink from an onlooker she grinned. It belied her diet of

unsalted white rice and water.

Magical practices are woven into the fabric of Javanese society, but while most mystics acquire their power from their forefathers, the Debus insist theirs comes directly from God.

"If you want to train with us, no matter you are a Christian, a Buddhist, a Hindu, you must just

be very strict in the disciplines of your own faith," said Djunaedi Djaelani, patriarch of this family of 15 Ascetics.

The audience is sometimes less than appreciative. Australian women avert their eyes as a mallet swings down to drive a pointed metal stake into a girl's bare stomach.

As she grimaces in a "this is dull, can we go home soon," sort of way and her grandfather extracts long skewers bloodlessly from her arms, the tourists screech and leave the room.

"What are they afraid of? God will see there is no blood," commented one of the group as he swept up lightbulb splinters.



Magical practices are woven into the fabric of Javanese society, but while most mystics acquire their power from their forefathers,

the Debus insist theirs comes directly from god.

Man — the willing slave of Lady Luck and Co.

GAMBLING seems to be one of Man's most deep rooted instincts, an urge to chance his luck against unpredictable events, or to pit his own strengths against those of others.

Some of the earliest writings reveal his predilection for a flutter. The casting of lots may at first have been an attempt to communicate with the gods, but before long the practice had become a sweepstake.

Today the role of Man as a born gambler has been acknowledged by the growth of national lotteries, which are believed to have originated in Italy. These often make millionaires of humble citizens — and leave most others cursing their luck.

Augustin Jombo, a Nigerian studying in the United States, is one whom fate chose for sudden riches.

Thirty seven year-old Jombo, who recently invested \$12 in a New York lottery, felt a little faint when told to collect winnings totalling \$26 million.

This was not surprising for, at a stroke, he had become one of Nigeria's richest men.

The windfall has solved at least one domestic problem. Jombo had not seen his wife and two children since he left Nigeria in 1980, and he had been unable to afford a trip home. His first assault on the \$26 million would be to buy an airline ticket for his family.

He intends to carry on with his political science studies at Fordham University, though the original idea of becoming a teacher is now less attractive.

Sudden wealth may sometimes have bizarre effects on people who have known only poverty. When 30-year-old Miron Vieira de Sousa, for example, won nearly \$2 million on the Brazilian football pools, in 1975, his first thoughts were not about a new dream-house or a smart car.

No, he went straight to a dentist for a set of false teeth.

But back to antiquity. The ancient Romans had a passion for

throwing dice, even though gambling was officially frowned upon and losers could not be sued for their debts.

This disapproval was understandable as some civilised Romans were not above playing with loaded dice. Evidence of such cheating has been unearthed from the ruins of Pompeii.

They were found in a room where the dice were kept, and the Romans had a passion for

throwing dice, even though gambling was officially frowned upon and losers could not be sued for their debts.

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Europeans look forward to world championships

THE HAGUE (R) — Europe's top athletes had barely recovered their breath at the weekend's European indoor athletics championships before looking expectantly to the world championships in Budapest starting next week.

The world event opens Friday, March 3 and ends March 5.

For Olympic shot put champion Ulf Timmermann, arch-rival Randy Barnes of the United States was uppermost in his thoughts.

East Germany's Timmermann dramatically won the Olympic gold last year, overhauling Barnes with his sixth and last put.

In January, Barnes showed he was intent on revenge when he set a world indoor record of 22.66 metres.

Timmermann replied with a European indoor record of 22.55 at the East German championships this month and followed up with a winning throw of 21.66 here Saturday.

"I wanted to throw over 22 metres," Timmermann said. "I'll try to achieve this in Budapest against Randy Barnes."

Romania's Olympic 1,500 metres women's champion Paula Ivan has no serious rival anywhere and her thoughts were concentrated both on Budapest and a possible world record.

Ivan, who has carried all before her on the American circuit this year, won the 1,500 metres here after leading from start to finish in the style which has become her trademark.

"Yes, I am thinking about the world championships," she said. "And a possible world record."

Briton Colin Jackson was exultant after winning the men's 60 metres hurdles but sounded a note of caution about his prospects in Budapest.

"Of course I will go to Budapest," he said. "But so far I don't know what American hurdlers will be there."

Timmermann, Ivan and Jackson were all worthy winners but overall the competition was inevitably devalued by the absence of the top East Germans and all but a few of the leading Soviets.

At a news conference Friday, athletics officials paid ritual compliments to the efficiency of the local organisation and the importance of the championships before admitting to disappointment at the low-key entry.

They did draw attention, however, to the peculiar disadvantage of this year's meeting which came after a busy Olympic year and only two weeks before the world championships.

In future the competition will not be held in the same year as the world championships, allowing the European meeting to return to its normal slot at the beginning of March.

The platitudes about the efficiency of the organisation were, in the main, justified.

But journalists relying on quick transcripts of the winners' post-event comments were entertained by some eccentric English translations.

"My first comment?" said Britain's women's 400 metres winner, Sally Gunnell, according to her transcript. "My licks are gone."

And Soviet triple jump gold medalist Nikolai Musienko was solemnly reported as saying in the best British public school tradition: "before the fifth try, I said to myself, old chap, it's time to win this one."

NHL Standings

NEW YORK (R) — Standing of National Hockey League teams after games Sunday.

Wales Conference					
Patrick Division					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF
Pittsburgh Penguins	32	22	5	69	266
Washington Capitals	29	23	10	68	273
New York Rangers	30	22	8	68	238
Philadelphia Flyers	29	29	3	61	229
New Jersey Devils	21	29	10	52	218
New York Islanders	21	35	3	45	195
Adams Division					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF
Montreal Canadiens	40	15	7	87	240
Boston Bruins	26	24	11	63	208
Buffalo Sabres	28	27	6	62	228
Hartford Whalers	25	29	4	54	216
Quebec Nordiques	21	34	6	48	207
Campbell Conference					
Norris Division					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF
Detroit Red Wings	26	26	9	63	237
Chicago Black Hawks	22	31	8	52	236
St. Louis Blues	21	28	10	52	203
Minnesota North Stars	18	28	13	49	196
Toronto Maple Leafs	20	34	5	45	180
Smythe Division					
	W	L	T	PTS	GF
Calgary Flames	41	12	8	90	263
Los Angeles Kings	31	23	5	67	302
Edmonton Oilers	29	27	6	64	254
Vancouver Canucks	25	29	7	57	200
Winnipeg Jets	20	28	10	50	224

NBA Standings

NEW YORK (AP) — Here are the National Basketball Association standings.

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
New York	34	17	.667	—
Philadelphia	28	22	.560	5.5
Boston	23	27	.460	10.5
Washington	19	30	.338	14
New Jersey	19	32	.373	15
Charlotte	14	37	.275	20
Central Division				
	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cleveland	38	12	.760	—
Detroit	33	14	.702	3.5
Milwaukee	31	17	.646	6
Atlanta	31	20	.608	7.5
Chicago	29	20	.592	8.5
Indiana	11	38	.224	26.5

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation —

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This day will turn out calmer than what has been felt the last few days. The next two days are a respite, as though we sit in the eye of a hurricane. Expect high energy to return Thursday.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Adapt to circumstances at work that cannot be changed. Relax and enjoy your success. Stay with what you cherish.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Catch up on procrastinated chores and errands. Use good judgment in dealing with sibling hassles. Give a hand to someone in need.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Your vision of the future will not materialize unless you get busy. Plan to put positive and steadfast energy into your work.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Abrasive conditions at work will clear up on their own. Give yourself credit and avoid negative impulses that are unrealistic.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): The urge to straighten out a gossiping cohort will not get results. Organize errands early in the day. Plan to rendezvous with siblings.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Handle career objectives aggressively. This is the time to make moves or restructure plans, realize shortcomings and devise better methods.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23): Discuss problems that have been surfacing at home. Tensions will ease and rough spots will be ironed out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21): A strong, persistent drive will accomplish goals. It is better to be alone than in bad company. Enjoy a quiet day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Such grand ideas cannot materialize if you overlook the important little things that will move your plan along.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): You may have to race to stay on time. A favor comes from someone you least expect. Brighten your mood with friendship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Mixing business with pleasure will get poor results. A new acquaintance could have romantic ties.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): A casual friendship could heat up. Finish your work early. Mix with friends in the evening. Spend time with children.

THE Daily Crossword

by William Lutzwick

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Butte's kin	1 Role player
5 Football's Lombardi	32 Powder bases
10 Eight prof.	33 Feast —
14 Unyielding	34 Sign of sorrow
15 Land —	35 Misdeed
16 Deuce (topper)	36 Bird's crop
17 Ohio Red	37 Neutral hue
19 Made strips	38 Strong winds
20 Bring about	39 Move
21 File	40 Check signer
22 Box office draw	41 Wicked
24 Pecks	42 Gram and
25 Comedian	43 Finger on
26 Sat aside for later	44 (touch)
27 Role player	45 Wolfish
32 Powder bases	46 Boring
33 Feast —	47 Date
34 Sign of sorrow	48 Kind of
35 Misdeed	49 quartet
36 Bird's crop	54 Short jacket
37 Neutral hue	55 Customers
38 Strong winds	56 Fairy tale
39 Move	57 opener
40 Check signer	58 Baseline
41 Wicked	59 Sea walls
42 Gram and	60 Roused
43 Finger on	
44 (touch)	
45 Wolfish	
46 Boring	
47 Date	
48 Kind of	
49 quartet	
54 Short jacket	
55 Customers	
56 Fairy tale	
57 opener	
58 Baseline	
59 Sea walls	
60 Roused	

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Pips	24 Aardvark	47 Hard journey
2 Aardvark	25 Aardvark	48 Words of
3 Aardvark	26 Aardvark	49 Dismay
4 Aardvark	27 Aardvark	50 Fencing blade
5 Aardvark	28 Aardvark	51 " — was saying —"
6 Aardvark	29 Aardvark	
7 Aardvark	30 Aardvark	
8 Aardvark	31 Aardvark	
9 Aardvark	32 Aardvark	
10 Aardvark	33 Aardvark	
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20 Aardvark	43 Aardvark	
21 Aardvark	44 Aardvark	
22 Aardvark	45 Aardvark	
23 Aardvark	46 Aardvark	

DOWN

1 Mickey and Minnie

2 TV's Moran

3 Ditty

4 Forebear

5 Destructive one

6 Pungent bulls

7 Loving touch

8 Clubs —

9 Fabled

10 Biblical preposition

11 Legends

12 Tongue call

13 Turkey-like bird

14 Big smile

15 Customer

16 Pungent bulls

17 Loving touch

18 Clubs —

19 Fabled

20 Biblical preposition

21 Legends

22 Tongue call

23 Turkey-like bird

24 Big smile

25 Customer

European soccer

Sacchi still under fire as AC Milan coach

ROME (AP) — AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi is increasingly dissatisfied with the team's coach, Arrigo Sacchi, and the two have clashed repeatedly over Sacchi's methods and his insistence on total autonomy.

Team sources try to downplay the friction between the president and his coach, but the denials are transparent.

"Arrigo Sacchi has a contract which expires on June 30," Milan administrator Adriano Galliani told Milan's sports daily newspaper, "La Gazzetta dello Sport." Monday, contradicting unofficial reports of Sacchi's dismissal printed Friday. "We will make our decision then."

Despite his troubles with the front office, Sacchi has quietly engineered a turnaround in the Milan team. After Sunday's 2-0 away win against Fiorentina, Milan joined Atalanta of Bergamo in fourth place with 25 points.

League-leading Internazionale of Milan downed Ascoli 3-1 at home to climb to 30 points. Second-place Napoli now trails Inter by two after a 1-1 draw at Bergamo against Atalanta.

Sampdoria of Genoa hammered Torino 5-1 at home and is in third place with 25 points.

In its last six matches, Milan has racked up to 10 points, more than Napoli and two more than Inter during the same period. Sacchi's troops have outscored their opponents 12 goals to two.

After a series of pre-season exhibitions against the best clubs in Europe, last year's champion, Milan, looked nothing short of invincible. But the team stumbled to an uncertain start and spent most of the first half of the season mired in the middle of the standings.

Much of Milan's misfortune was due to the prolonged absence of key players like Dutch midfielder Ruud Gullit and Italian winger Roberto Donadoni.

Now that the team is back at full strength, Milan is once again playing well.

"I don't know how much truth there is to these rumours about Sacchi," said Gullit after the Fiorentina match. "But all of the players are behind him. We owe last year's championship to Sacchi, to his methods, and to his creative style of play. The merit is his."

Berlusconi does not share the Dutchman's enthusiasm.

"A man who elects to do everything his own way like Sacchi, who doesn't intend to listen to advice, is certainly worthy of respect," Berlusconi said a month ago. "But at season's end, that man also has to accept the lion's share of the blame if things go wrong."

Berlusconi and Sacchi have butted heads over coaching tactics, contracts, and player trades. Both men seem too proud to compromise.

"I won the championship in my first year at Milan," Sacchi told reporters. "It's a very hard act to follow. What else can I do?"

If the eight-point gap separating Milan from Inter is too broad to bridge, Sacchi could have another shot at saving his job on March 1 when Milan takes on Werder Bremen of West Germany in the opening round of the quarterfinals of the European champion's cup tournament.

Another Italian coach rumoured to be on the hot seat in Roma's Nils Liedholm. According to unofficial reports, the veteran Swedish mentor will be replaced this week.

If the 68-year-old Liedholm is fired, he will be the third Italian league coach to lose his job this year.

Ascoli's Ilario Castagner was replaced by Eugenio Bersellini early in the season, and Claudio Sala took Gigi Radice's seat on the Torino bench in December. Neither team seems to have benefited from the change in leadership.

PSV prepares for Madrid

THE HAGUE (R) — PSV Eindhoven, who meet Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the European Cup next week, recovered some of the style which won them the trophy last season when they trounced Venlo 5-2 Sunday.

With Ajax Amsterdam losing 3-2 at Sparta Rotterdam, PSV's return to form opened up a five-point lead in the Dutch First Division and rekindled optimism after a series of mediocre performances and rumours of internal strife.

Ronald Koeman, the brilliant Barcelona-bound libero whose impending move to Spain is reported to have upset morale, scored the second goal after Gerard Vanenburg had opened the scoring. Two goals by Jui Ellerman and one from Hans Gillhaus completed the rout in the second half.

Madrid remained at the top of the Spanish First Division but may have cast a wary eye over events in the Netherlands after being held 1-1 by Real Sociedad in San Sebastian, a result which kept them one point clear of Barcelona who drew by the same score at Valencia.

Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker said: "I am disappointed because we totally controlled the game and we conceded a stupid goal."

Real led through a 33rd minute breakaway goal by Martin Vazquez but had their victory hopes dashed when Juan Bengoechea deflected in a Jesus Zamora corner.

Valencia were reduced to ten men when Jon Garcia was sent off in the second half for a second cautionable offence. Fernando Gomez volleyed Valencia ahead after three minutes, but Julio Salinas equalised with his 16th goal of the season for the Catalans.

Top scorer at 22

Third-placed Atletico Madrid beat Sevilla 2-0, Brazilian Baltazar de Moraes scoring twice to take his tally as Spain's top scorer to 22.

It Italy, champions AC Milan stole some attention from Internazionale Milan and Napoli's race for the title with an excellent 2-0 win at Fiorentina.

Defender Angelo Colombo and midfielder Carlo Ancelotti scored the goals but their stylish performance was marred nine minutes from time when European footballer of the year Marco Van Basten was sent off for foul play. Inter Milan beat bottom team Napoli 3-1 to move two points clear of Napoli, who were held 1-1 by Atalanta. Nicola Bert, Aldo Serena and Ramon Diaz scored for Inter before Bruno Giordano replied.

Napoli President Corrado Ferlaino blasted what he called an "atmosphere of intimidation" against his players this season. Atalanta fans showered Napoli with coins and other objects as they entered the dressing rooms at half time.

"I told the players to watch out because there was a penalty in the air coming our way... we've had eight awarded against us this season," he said.

Sure enough, Atalanta were awarded a penalty 14 minutes into the second half to equalise. Diego Maradona having headed Napoli in front.

IRS REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE

A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be available on the following dates to answer questions and provide information on U.S. income tax filing:

Sunday, February 26:
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

For further information please call 644371 ext. 233.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

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NO CREDIT NO CHECKS

"I figured out why your car won't run. It's protesting against the crummy radio station you listen to."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TULDA

ELVOG

BABFLY

VIYTL

ADD THIS ON FOR YOUR PROTECTION, IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO INVEST.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " — (Answers tomorrow)

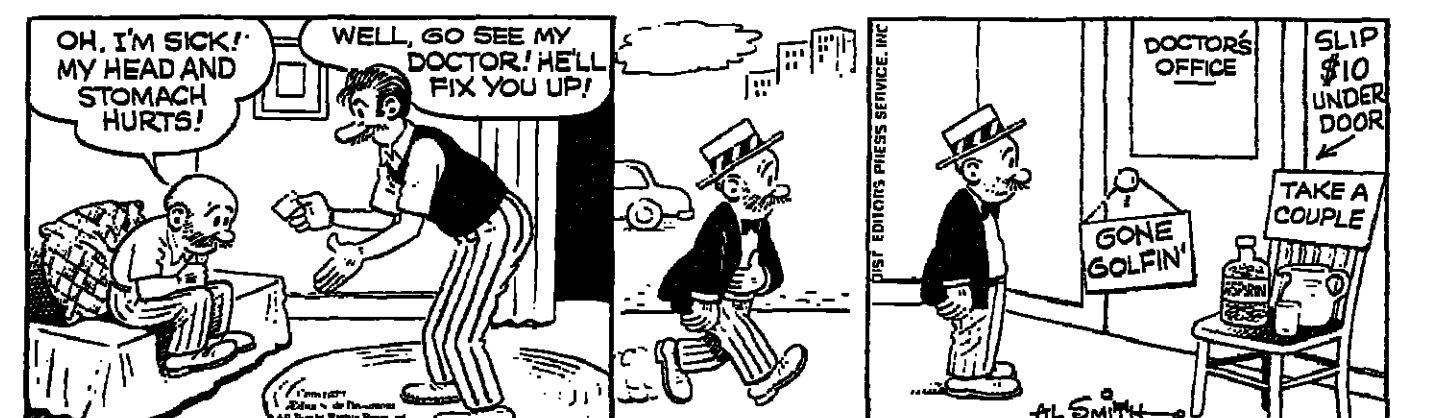
Yesterday's Jumbles: HOUSE CRAWL OCCULT URCHIN

Answer: Another name for the time you spend going home from work—THE "CRASH" HOUR

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



EC nations to recall Iran ambassadors over Rushdie

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — European Community (EC) governments agreed in principle Monday to recall their ambassadors from Iran to protest against Tehran's calls for the assassination of British author Salman Rushdie, diplomats said.

The provisional agreement, reached at a meeting of EC foreign ministers here, was due to be finalised later in the day, the diplomats said.

Rushdie's book of blasphemy against Islam and Ayatollah Khomeini has called for him to be killed.

A British diplomat, who declined to be named, said it was "virtually certain" the 12 governments would withdraw their heads of mission in Tehran for consultations.

This would mean that Britain, which does not have an ambassador in Iran, would pull out Charge d'Affaires Nicholas Browne.

Diplomats said ministers were considering freezing all high-level meetings between EC member states and Iran and imposing res-

trictions on Iranian diplomatic personnel in EC member states. They said ministers would issue a statement condemning Iran's demand for Rushdie's death over his book "The Satanic Verses," considered blasphemous by many Muslims.

"The statement will impress upon the Iranian government to seek the withdrawal of the statement (against Rushdie) and the urgent need to stop threatening people of other countries," the British diplomat said.

Diplomats said the statement would insist on the need for individual liberties and the freedom of religious belief.

One diplomat quoted Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, who chaired the one-and-a-half hour discussion on the Rushdie case, as calling the

demand for the author's killing "an affront to civilisation."

Diplomats said ministers would approve the joint declaration and the measures to be taken against Iran after officials had finalised details during lunch.

They said West Germany, which has retained its ambassador to Iran in Bonn and recalled its Charge d'Affaires in Tehran, had taken the toughest line against Iran at the meeting.

A West German diplomat quoted Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher as warning before the meeting: "Today Rushdie, tomorrow it could be the political director (for EC diplomatic cooperation) of France."

The British diplomat rejected suggestions that the withdrawal of Tehran mission heads and the other measures under consideration went further than Britain, which reestablished diplomatic relations with Iran only three months ago after a year-long rift, would have liked.

"The flavour of the discussion was complete solidarity among

the 12," he said. "We want to put maximum pressure on the Iranians."

Khomeini Sunday rejected an apology from Rushdie over the offence caused by his book and said the Indian-born author should be executed even if he repented.

Canada lifts ban

The Canadian government ruled Sunday that Rushdie's book was not hate propaganda and lifted a temporary ban on its importation.

Canada had announced Friday it would halt shipments of the book until it could be reviewed following a complaint from an unnamed Ottawa Muslim group.

The Department of Revenue and Customs said in a statement Sunday the book did not contravene the country's criminal code and would again be allowed entry.

"To be considered hate propaganda, material must advocate or promote genocide or incite hatred towards an identifiable



Pro-Iran Bangladeshis protest against Salman Rushdie's book 'The Satanic Verses' earlier this week in Dhaka

group," the statement said. "Based on legal jurisprudence and departmental precedents, the department has concluded that the book does not meet this

definition," it added. But a Canadian Muslim group expressed anger at the government's decision. "It must be the Canadian Mus-

lims who should see whether it is hate literature or not," said Qasem Mahmud, of the Council of Muslim Communities of Canada.

Cardinal supports ban on Marcos

MANILA (AP) — The country's foremost churchman Monday endorsed the government's ban on Ferdinand Marcos and revealed that U.S. President Ronald Reagan first wanted the ousted leader to seek exile in Honduras instead of the United States.

Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, Roman Catholic archbishop of Manila, said he had kept silent on the issue of whether Marcos should be allowed to return from Hawaii, where he has lived in exile since a popular uprising toppled his administration three years ago.

"Speaking in my capacity as archbishop of Manila, the safety of his flock is in danger by the brewing controversy (over Marcos' return)," the cardinal said in a speech at the University of Santo Tomas.

"I, therefore, express support for the position President (Corason) Aquino is taking, and I urge my parishioners to stand firm against those who would destabilize our government," he added.



Jaime L. Sin

attempt when Aquino goes to Japan for Friday's funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

"The bottom line is that she's leaving with a big question mark because you don't know what will happen when she is gone," said an analyst for Barcelona Roxas Securities Incorporated, a brokerage house.

Sin said he saved Marcos' life by arranging his departure from Manila because "if he were there, he and his family would have been killed."

New violence breaks out after Sri Lankan election

COLOMBO (AP) — A previously unknown organisation Sunday opened the first bout of violence since elections in this Indian Ocean island nation by killing at least 20 Sinhalese men, military officials said Sunday.

The bodies, with gunshot wounds, were discovered late Saturday in villages in Anuradhapura district, 165 kilometres northeast of Colombo in the Sinhalese heartland of central Sri Lanka, said officials of the military joint operations command, who cannot be named under briefing rules.

The officials said the victims were members of the ultranationalist Sinhalese militant group the People's Liberation Front.

The killings, reportedly by a group calling themselves the Black Cats, were the first since President Ranasinghe Premadasa's United National Party won

parliamentary polls in results declared Thursday, the officials said.

Officials said they had not heard of the group before Sunday.

In the north, at least four Tamils were killed and six injured in factional clashes between two groups of rebel Tamil militias, military officials said.

At least 1,000 people, including 14 candidates for the legislature, were killed during the five-week-long election campaign that began Jan. 6. Both Tamil rebels and Sinhalese extremists opposed the elections.

Soldiers discovered the bodies of 20 young Sinhalese men Saturday, shot through the head with their arms tied behind their backs, many of them half-burnt, in Vijiyaapura and Siripura villages, officials said. Notices found near the bodies claimed the

killings were carried out by the Black Cats, officials said.

Also Saturday, four members of a former Tamil guerrilla organisation, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), were killed in fights with members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front. Six others were injured, military officials said.

The clashes took place in Jaffna in the north and Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka. Details were not immediately available, the officials said.

Mostly Hindu Tamils comprise 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and are in a slight majority in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Militant Tamils claim they are discriminated against by the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority who make up 75 per cent of the island's population.

200 detainees still fasting in S. Africa

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Attorneys said Sunday they estimate about 200 black detainees remain on a hunger strike in Natal province demanding they be released or charged.

The detainees, most of whom began their hunger strike a week ago, did not resume eating last week, when nearly 200 other hunger strikers did, because their attorneys have not met with Law and Order minister Adriaan Vlok.

The attorneys told reporters they are trying to arrange a meeting, like those Vlok held last week with lawyers representing detainees in the Cape and Transvaal provinces.

But at this point, they said they are not sure whether Vlok's

undertaking to free a substantial number of detainees in the next two weeks applies to the Natal detainees.

The attorneys said there are about 200 detainees held under emergency regulations who are on hunger strike in the Westville prison in Durban, the prison at Pietermaritzburg, and police jails throughout the province.

The attorneys said they have not been able to see all their clients, but some have sent word through relatives or prisoners awaiting trial on charges, so the exact number on hunger strike is not known.

About 300 detainees, many held since the white-controlled government declared a national state of emergency June 12, 1986,

went on hunger strike three weeks ago to protest their incarceration. More than 20 were hospitalised, prompting Vlok to hold meetings last week with lawyers, clergymen and relatives of detainees.

For the first time he received information other than that supplied by his policemen on why certain people were considered a danger to the community.

Under the national emergency, police can arrest anyone they believe might be a danger to the public safety, and Vlok decides periodically, based on reports from police officers, whether the detainee should remain incarcerated.

There is no requirement that the detainee be brought to court

and charged, and there is no time limit on how long they can be kept in custody.

Vlok said Saturday that he would assign a senior police officer to investigate factors such as family circumstances, the detainees' attitudes and their job possibilities so that those factors can be considered in deciding whether a detainee should be freed.

Monitoring groups have said more than 30,000 people, mostly black, have been detained for some period of time during the emergency. Vlok has never given a total figure, but the periodic reports he must make to parliament have added up to approximately 30,000.

W. German firms aided Pakistan programme

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — West German companies have delivered equipment to Pakistan for years that can be used in the production of nuclear materials and weapons, a magazine reported Saturday.

The Hamburg-based Der Spiegel magazine said mid-size West German companies had delivered machinery and technology to Pakistan that was then "adapted" to the nation's nuclear energy and weapons development programme.

Pakistan has said it was on the threshold of being able to build nuclear weapons but did not intend to do so.

The magazine, in a telex to other news media Saturday, said the equipment ranged from tooling equipment to technology capable of processing tritium gas, which is used to enhance the capability of nuclear weapons.

Der Spiegel said many of the exports were made with government approval.

It said export officials approved the delivery of machinery that Der Spiegel said U.S.



officials contended could be used to make parts for nuclear warheads.

Der Spiegel said customs officials only learned later that the machinery was used in nuclear research and development.

The magazine said the nuclear research centre in Karlsruhe also delivered equipment to Pakistan and trained Pakistani researchers.

The government owns a controlling interest in the centre, the magazine said.

In its telex, Der Spiegel did not name the companies it said had been involved in the exports.

The magazine said U.S. officials had asked West German officials for years to help prevent Pakistan from developing its nuclear weapons programme.

Captain wanted to rescue Vietnamese

SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE, Philippines (AP) — The skipper of a supply ship testified Monday that a U.S. Navy captain accused of abandoning Vietnamese refugees wanted to rescue them but did not because their craft was seaworthy.

Captain Bruce Butterfield, captain of the navy supply ship Kilauea, gave the testimony during the court-martial of Captain Alexander Balian, former skipper of the USS Dubuque.

Balian is accused of failing to render adequate assistance to more than 80 Vietnamese refugees when the Dubuque encountered them in the South China Sea last June 9.

United Nations and navy officials say 31 of the Vietnamese died before they were rescued by Filipino fishermen June 27. Survivors said they devoured five of the dead, including two who were murdered for their flesh.

Butterfield said his ship was accompanying the Dubuque at the time of the encounter and remained about 3.2 kilometres away while Balian manoeuvred around the Vietnamese craft.

Butterfield said that after Balian had given the refugees food and water, he told him he had wanted to take them aboard the Dubuque but did not do so be-

cause their vessel appeared seaworthy.

"He expressed to me some remorse," Butterfield said. He quoted Balian, 48, of Los Angeles, as saying he was sorry about having to leave the Vietnamese "but those are the rules our superior made for us."

Regulations leave the decision on picking up refugees to the captain based on his assessment of their condition, Butterfield said.

Butterfield said Balian asked him to pick up the Vietnamese if he found them on his way back to Subic but by the time he returned the vessel was gone.

"During our ensuing conversation, Balian felt that although the criteria was sufficient for providing assistance, he was under the impression that the craft was seaworthy, that there were no sign of health problems aboard and the people were in need for food and water," Butterfield said. "He provided the assistance and with that, he carried on with his operation."

Butterfield said he also believed the Vietnamese craft was seaworthy. He described Balian as "one of those rare birds that you can depend upon to be right up front."

COLUMN

Broadway flop closes

NEW YORK (R) — "Legs Diamond", Australian cabaret star Peter Allen's lavish Broadway musical unanimously lambasted by critics, closed Sunday after 136 performances as perhaps the great white-way's biggest flop ever. The extravaganza about prohibition-era gangsters and chorus girls cost \$5 million to produce and starred creator Allen in his first-ever acting role. Allen, who began working on "Legs Diamond" in 1983, also composed the score and wrote the lyrics for the musical, which during its seven weeks of preview performances underwent almost daily rewrites. But New York critics, not noted for their affection for big musicals, gave the play unusually harsh reviews even by their own standards. "Legs Diamond" is a sobering interlude of minimum security imprisonment that may inspire you to pull out a pen and attend long-neglected tasks, like finishing last Sunday's crossword puzzle or balancing a checkbook." New York Times critic Frank Rich wrote after its official Dec. 26 opening.

Dog saves man's life

BRIDGEPORT, New York (AP) — A 32-year-old man who escaped his burning home told firefighters he would have died if his pet dog had not roused him from his sleep. "He just kept licking my face and nudging me and barking," said Daniel Kneeskern of Bridgeport after the fire that gutted his home Thursday morning. "I ignored him, but he didn't stop. When I finally came to, I opened my eyes and started to choke and cough. I couldn't breathe," said Kneeskern. Once awakened by his year-old black Labrador retriever Buster, Kneeskern was able to throw a small fire cabinet through his bedroom window. Both owner and dog escaped. "I wouldn't be here right now if it wasn't for him," said Kneeskern. "He's going to get a steak dinner for sure, maybe lobster. ... he can have anything he wants now."

Moose on the loose

THIEF RIVER FALLS, Minnesota (AP) — When the snow gets deep in this part of Minnesota, the moose get going. The only problem is that the moose go to town, where they wander the streets and dine on apple trees and hedges. When residents have had enough, police usually herd the animals back across the frozen Thief River by slowly driving alongside, yelling, honking or sounding the siren. But three persistent moose simply are not taking the hint, and police recently have taken to firing special exploding shells to frighten them. "We chase them out and they just come back," said officer Tim Miller, who has chased the cow and her calves three times in one week.

Biggest spherical building opens

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish royalty and rock stars appeared at Sunday night gala to open the Globe Arena, the world's biggest spherical building. A crowd of 12,000 filled the new city landmark, which is part of a complex built for about 2.5 billion kronor (\$395 million). Twenty thousand people gathered outside the building to view fireworks and a free light show projected on the round arena walls. The 85-metre high building looks like a giant golf ball on Stockholm's southern horizon. From April 15 to May 1, the arena will host the world ice hockey championships, with Sweden the defending champion.

'Rock's friends saw me as toilet paper'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Marc Christian, the homosexual lover of film star Rock Hudson who was awarded \$21.75 million in damages last week, says he sued partly because the actor's friends saw him as something to be thrown away. "The suit was a way of me saying I wasn't going to be treated that way," Christian said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times published Sunday. "Everybody has a right to be treated with respect." Christian, 35, was awarded \$21.75 million against the estate of Hudson, who died in October 1985, and Hudson's private secretary, Mark Miller, on the grounds he was not told Hudson was dying of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Christian said he suffered extreme emotional distress when he heard the news on television. "I was looked upon as the (Hudson) house as a nonentity. The friends of Rock saw me as toilet paper, as something to be thrown away," he said.

Nigeria faces malnutrition as food prices skyrocket

By Tunde Obadina
Reuters

LAGOS — Nigerians are suffering from worsening malnutrition because of shortages and high food prices, according to doctors and trade unionists. "Nutrition in the country is assuming worrying proportions," Dr. Boko Ransome-Kuti, former president of the Nigerian Medical Association told Reuters.

During the past two years hospitals have dealt with increased cases of illnesses caused by malnutrition, he said.

High cost of proteins was forcing the poor to consume more carbohydrates but even these were gradually being priced beyond their reach, he said.

Official figures show that consumer prices rose by 42.2 per cent in the years ending last October. Bread and some staple grains are beyond the budget of many families. Ransome-Kuti said that malnutrition was most pronounced amongst children and "may effect the intelligence of future generations."

A professor at the Obafemi Awolowo College of Health Sciences, F.A. Akesode, was

more certain about the effects of under-nourishment.

"A generation of dullards is already being bred in the country," he told the Lagos-based magazine, Healthcare, in its February issue.

"Malnutrition among children has reached an epidemic level in Nigeria," he said.

Seven to twelve per cent of children were found to suffer from severe malnutrition in a rapid assessment conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) among 5,000 under fives in Nigeria.

The sample showed that 44 to 70 per cent had some degree of malnutrition, said the report, which has not been published but has been made available to Reuters.

Nigeria's labour leader, Pascal Bayfau, told Reuters Thursday that trade unionists would ask the government to cut foreign debt service repayments in order to import food.

"Food should be massively imported to stop the tide of hunger that is now prevalent in the country," said Bayfau, the president of the Nigerian Labour Congress, which groups the country's trade union organisations.

He said that the measure should be temporary, until the

country could produce enough food for its people.

"Nigerians don't have to die before food is produced in sufficient quantities to reach everyone," he said.

The government has acknowledged that people are suffering under current austerity measures.

President Ibrahim Babangida earlier in the year told Nigerians that his administration would not import its way out of the country's food problem.

Babangida last week acknowledged the general concern about rising prices but said that higher food production was the only solution to the problem.

"Until our production is sufficiently abundant, prices of foodstuff and agricultural commodities will continue to rise almost on the daily basis," he said.

However, the government last week introduced what it described as short term measures aimed at relieving the hardships caused by inflation by banning grain exports and ordering the release of government food stocks.

Bayfau said that although the government's action was a positive move it was not enough.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Czech groups appeal for Havel

PRAGUE (AP) — Independent groups in Czechoslovakia have appealed to the signatories of European human rights documents to protest pending trials against banned dramatist Vaclav Havel and eight other activists. In a letter delivered to embassies in Prague, 10 groups called on the 35 governments that signed the Helsinki follow-up accord concluded in Vienna last month not to allow the Czechoslovak leadership to ignore human rights pledges made in the document. "The fact that the current Czechoslovak leadership has dared to ignore so blatantly not only public opinion within its own country, but also protests of the international community, ... constitutes a signal of alarm," the letter said. It was made available to journalists in Prague by prominent activist Peter Uhl. A translation of the text was also made available to the AP in Vienna by the London-based emigre publisher Palach Press.

Britain may hold flood talks

DHAKA (R) — Britain has volunteered to help raise billions of dollars to prevent floods that kill thousands of Bangladeshis each year, Bangladesh's foreign minister said Monday. "This is a gigantic task which will need at least five to six million dollars," Anisul Islam Mahmud told reporters. Mahmud, briefing journalists on President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's five-day official visit to London last week, said Britain had offered to sponsor an international conference on the flooding. He said the offer was made at a meeting between Ershad and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He said several Western countries as well as the international financial agencies would attend the talks, which might be held in London. More than 3,000 people had been killed last year in floods that were described as the worst in 40 years.

3 die in Italian vehicle pile-up

MILAN (R) — At least three people were killed and 30 injured in an 80-vehicle pile-up in thick fog on a northern Italian motorway Monday, police said. They said several cars and lorries had caught fire and that the dead had been trapped inside. Police closed both carriageways of the motorway near Piacenza, about 60 kilometres south of Milan.

7 killed, 300 hurt in Bogota collapse

BOGOTA (R) — Seven people were killed and up to 307 wounded when a temporary bullring packed with more than 3,000 spectators collapsed "like a sandcastle" in the small town of Honda, witnesses said Sunday. Red Cross director for Talima Province, Ramiro Lozano, said a total of 307 wounded were treated in area hospitals, with at least 30 remaining in serious condition. Some of the injured were transferred to hospitals in Bogota. Local hospitals called for antibiotics and blood plasma to face the emergency. A journalist from the RCN radio station who was reporting live on the bullfight Saturday said the whole structure, made of metal scaffolding tubes and heavy wooden planks, collapsed in a matter of seconds.

Gorbachev tours Ukraine

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev flew to the Ukraine Monday for a tour Soviet officials said would include his first visit to the site of the 1986 nuclear power plant disaster at Chernobyl. Gorbachev, who was met at Kiev airport by long-serving Ukrainian Communist Party chief Vladimir Shcherbitsky, is also expected to use the tour to urge continued public support for his reform programme despite persistent food supply problems. The official TASS news agency said the 57-year-old party leader and president would visit "major industrial and cultural centres" and meet industrial and agricultural workers as well as scientists and Ukrainian government and communist officials. Although the agency did not mention Chernobyl, 130 kilometres north of the Ukrainian capital, officials said privately it was on the programme. The visit comes as official reports are signalling the effects of the explosion April 26, 1986, were worse than at first revealed.

Quake hits Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A strong earthquake hit the capital and much of northern Japan, killing one person and injuring another, shaking buildings and briefly halting some train and airline service, officials said Monday. The quake Sunday, registering 5.6 on the Richter Scale, hit at 9:27 p.m. (1237 GMT) said a spokesman for the meteorological agency.

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